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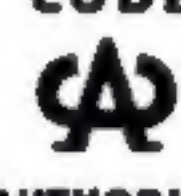
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LEONARDI
WILLIAMS

SPIDER-MAN

BEHIND the MASK

Stan Lee presents:

Mother's Day

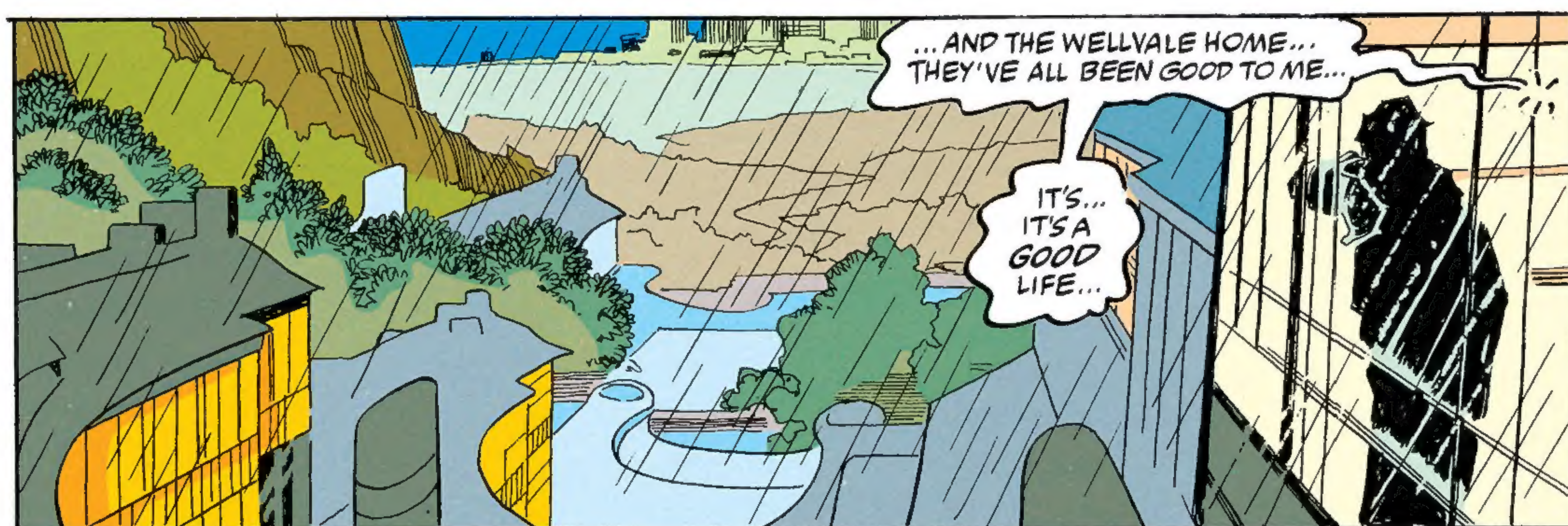
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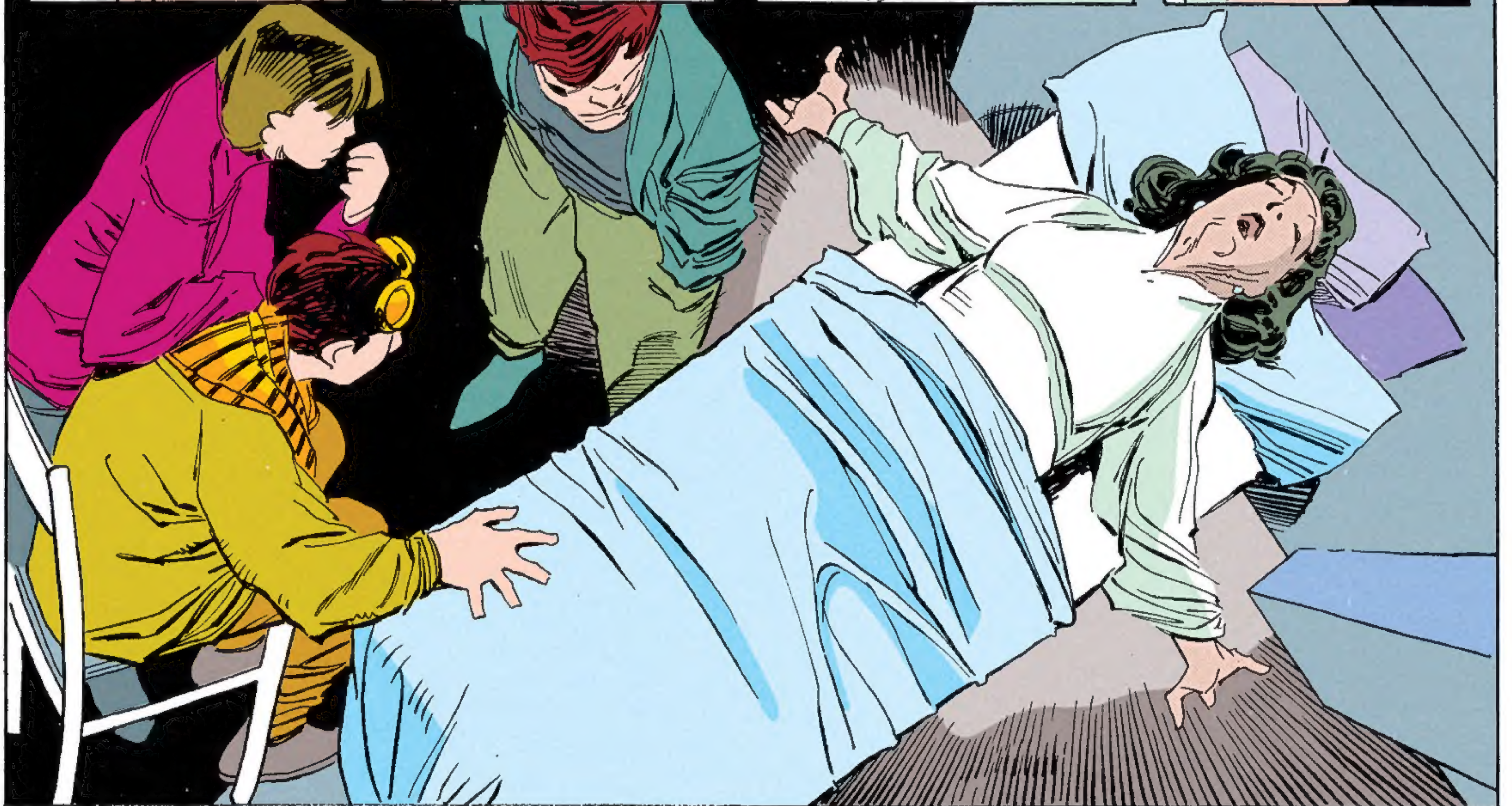
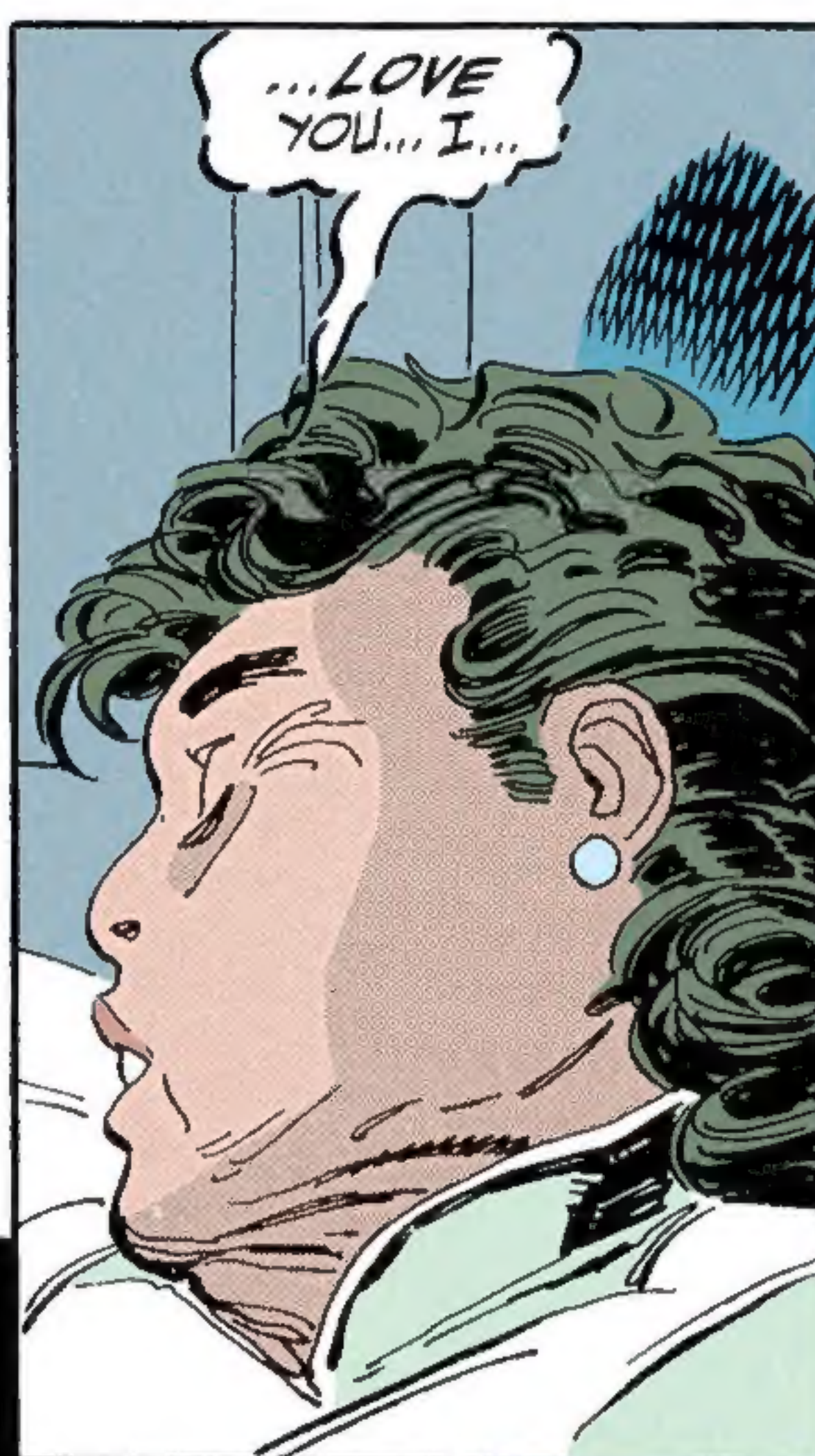
GABRI... ARE... ARE
YOU THERE...

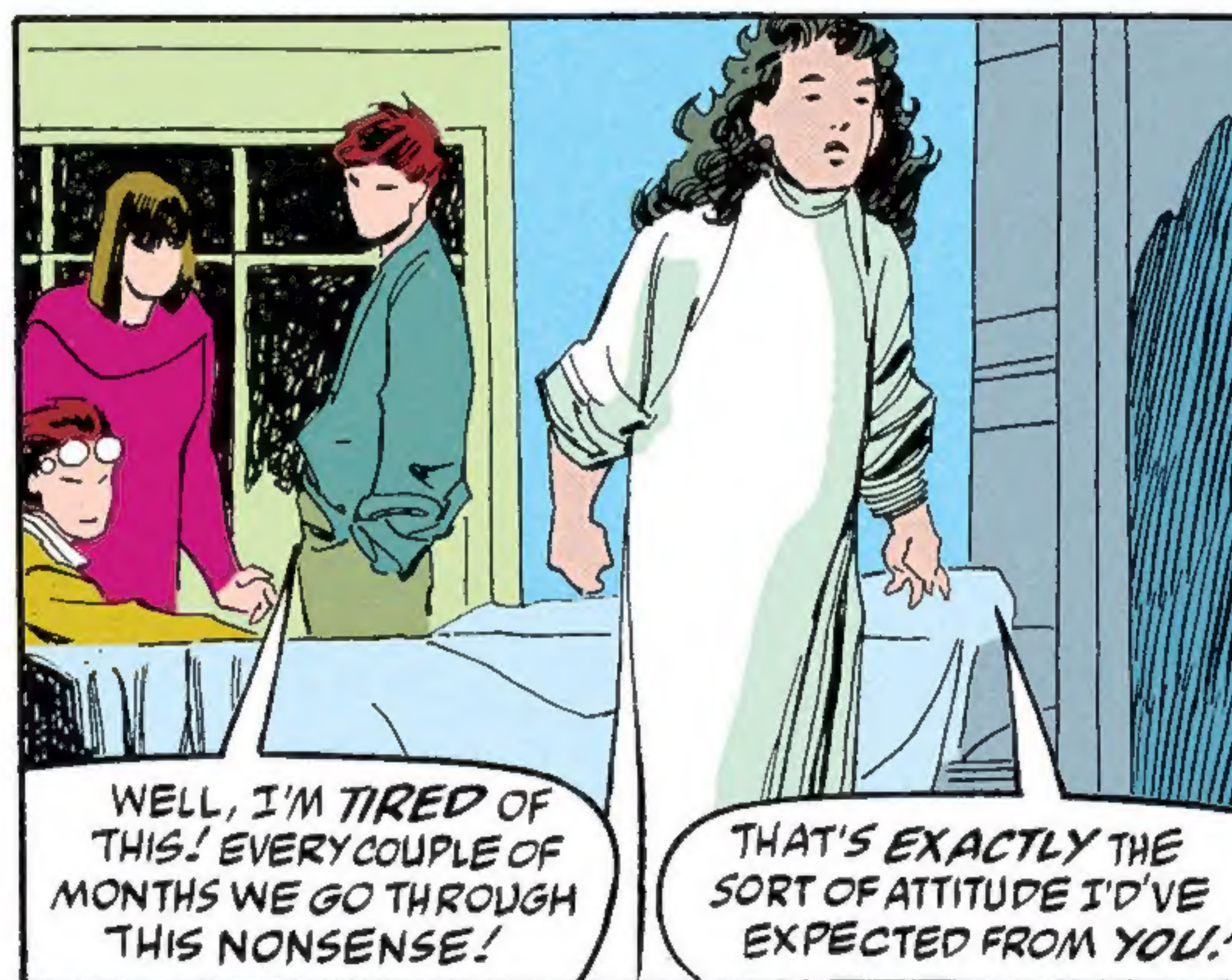
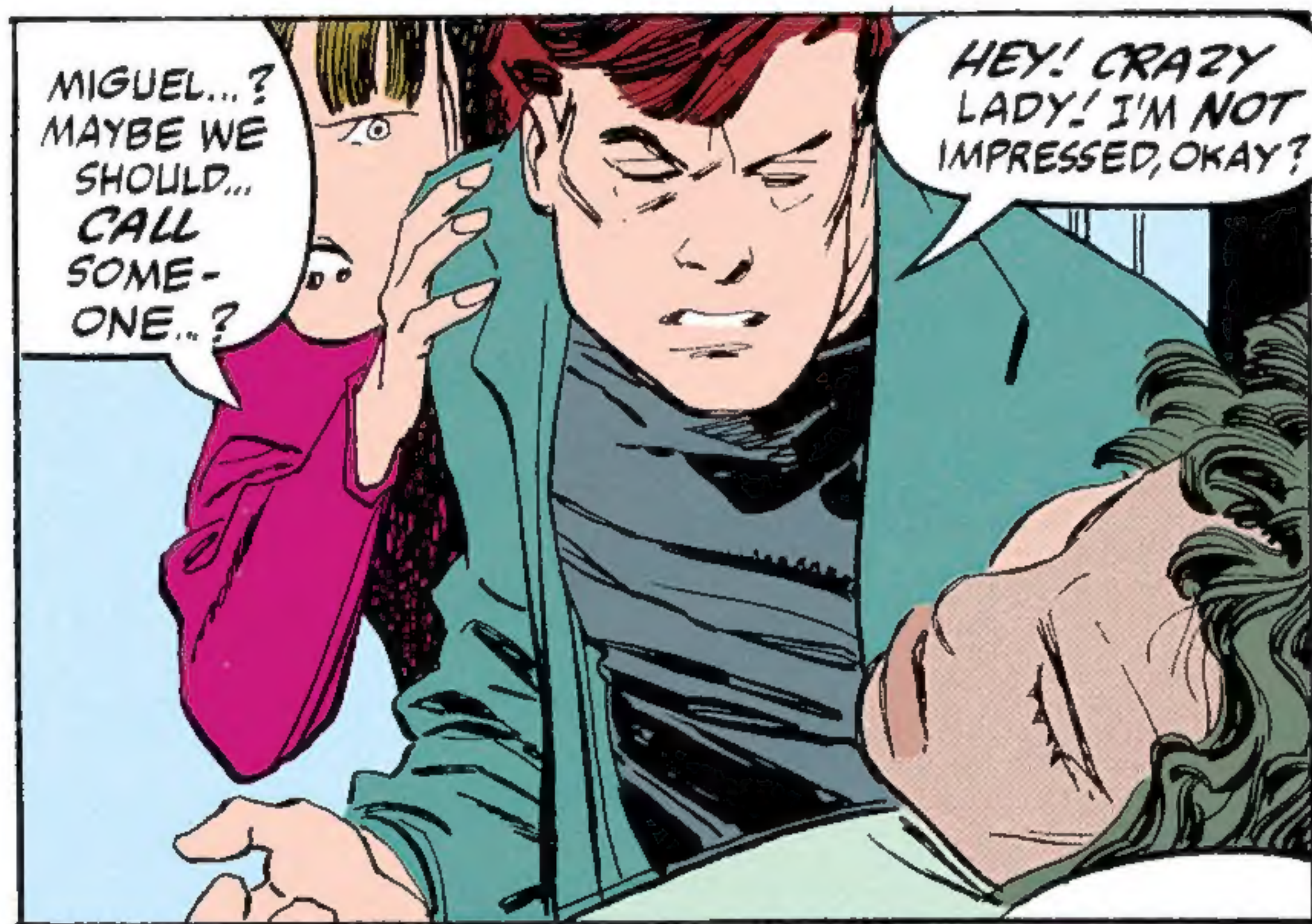
SO... HARD
TO SEE...

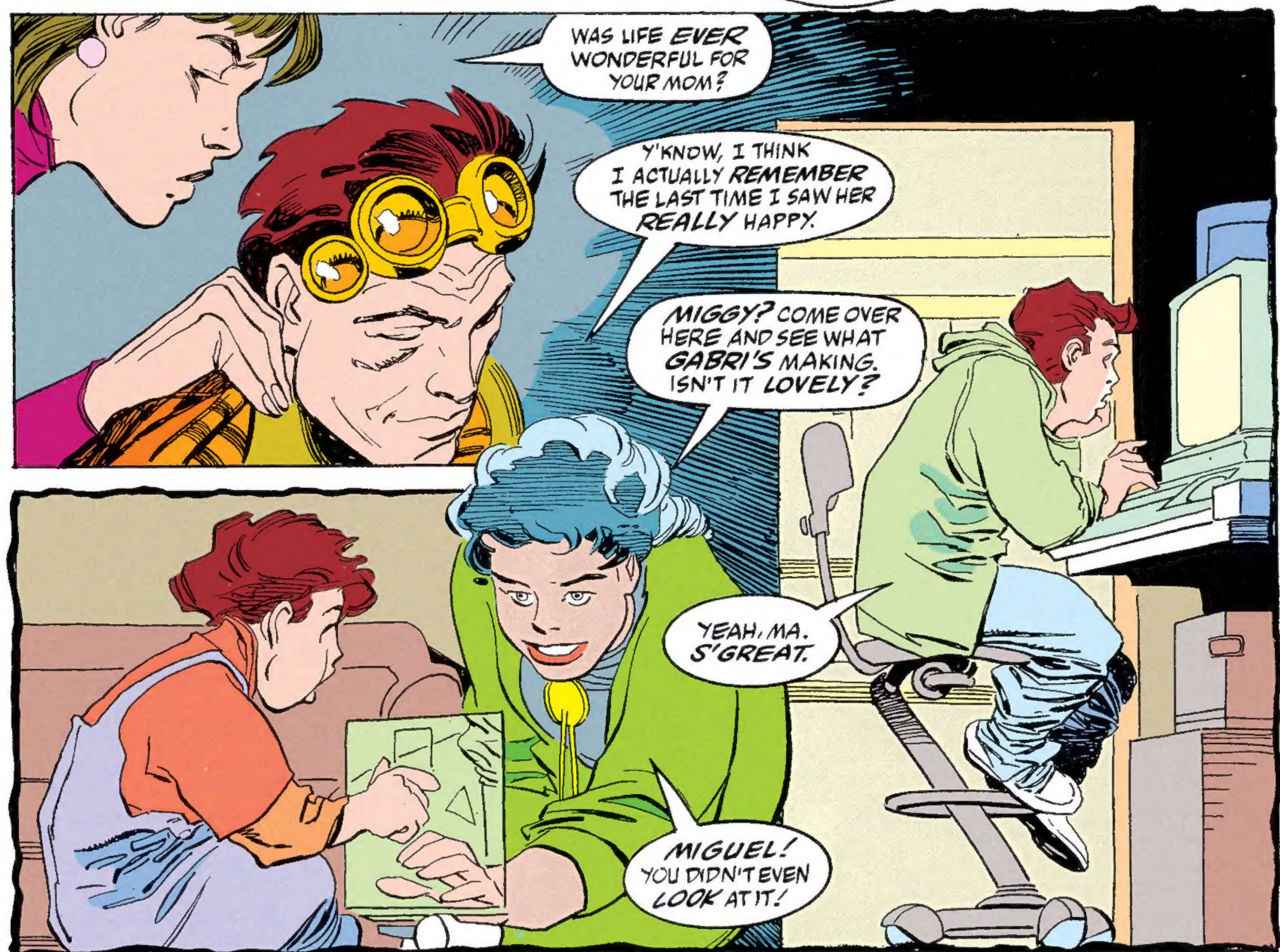
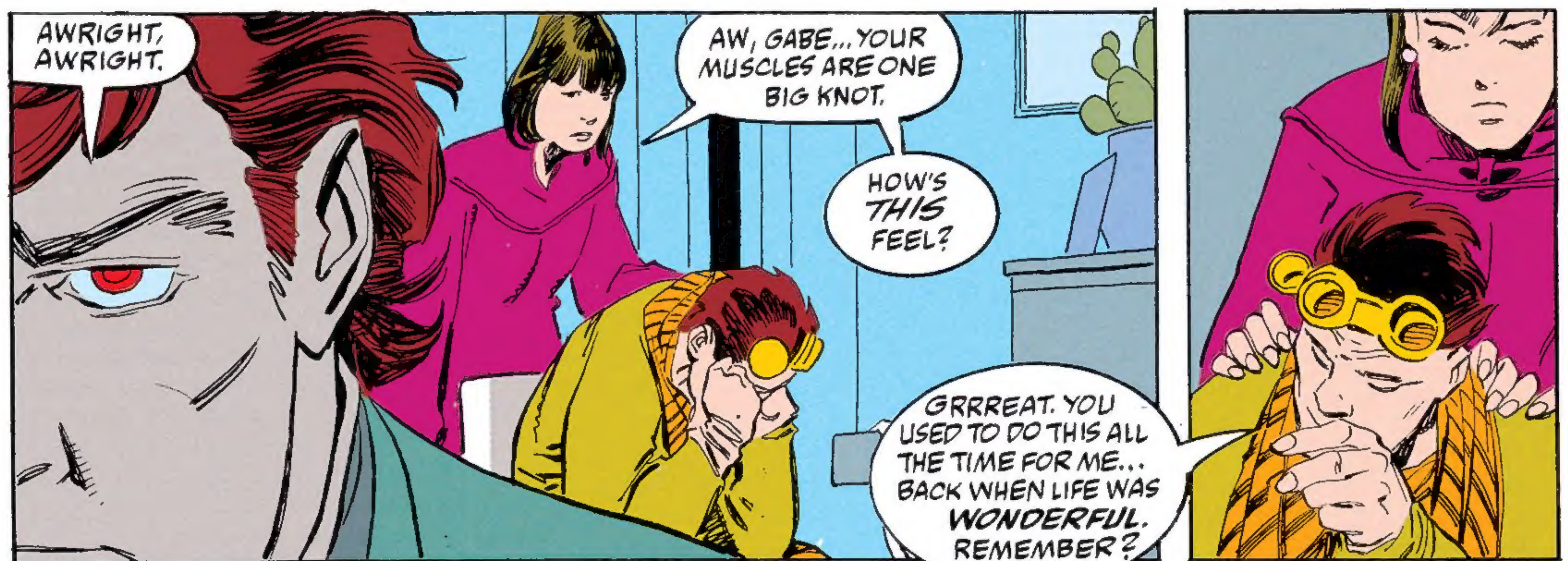
YEAH,
MA.
I'M HERE.

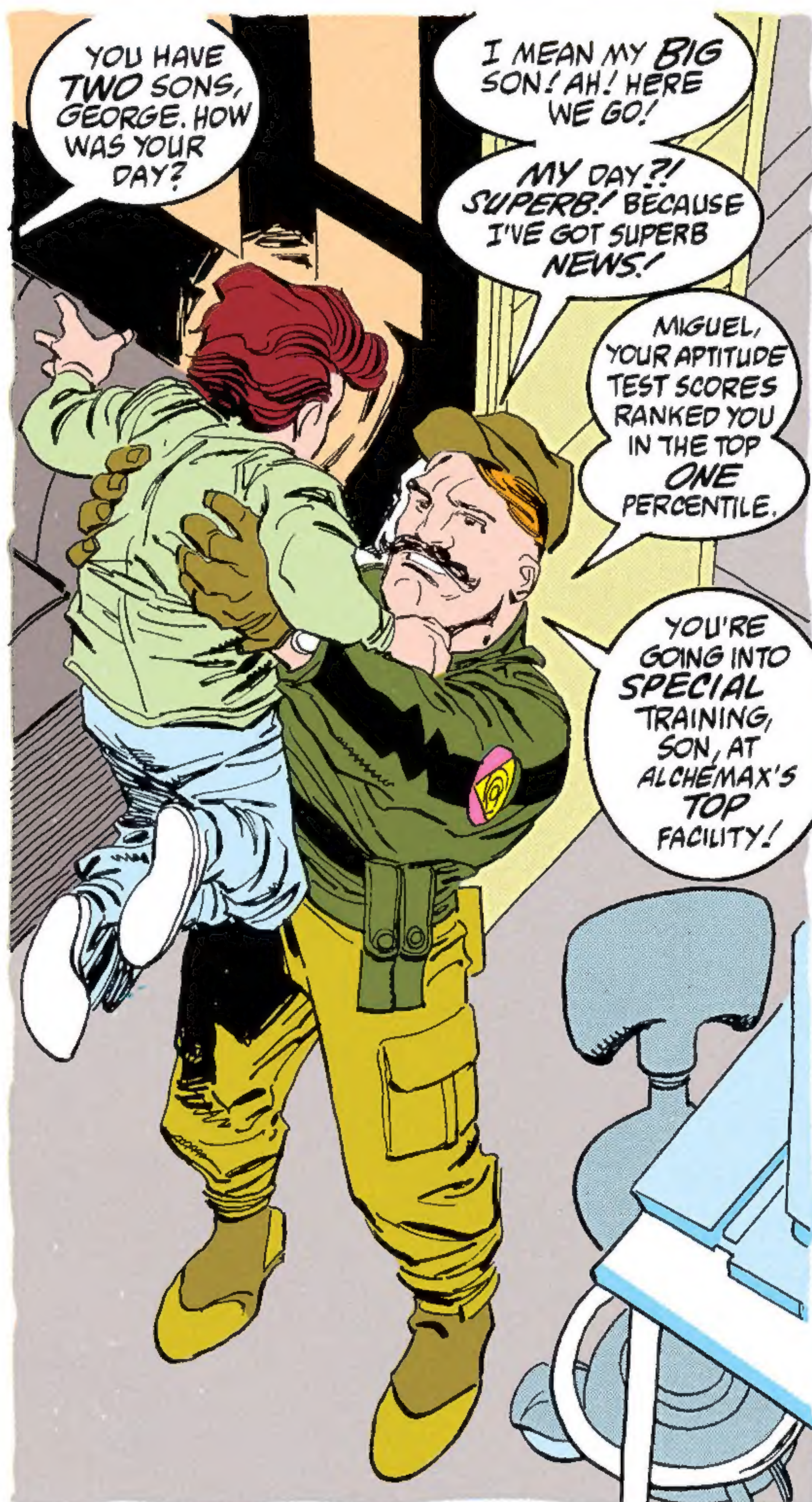
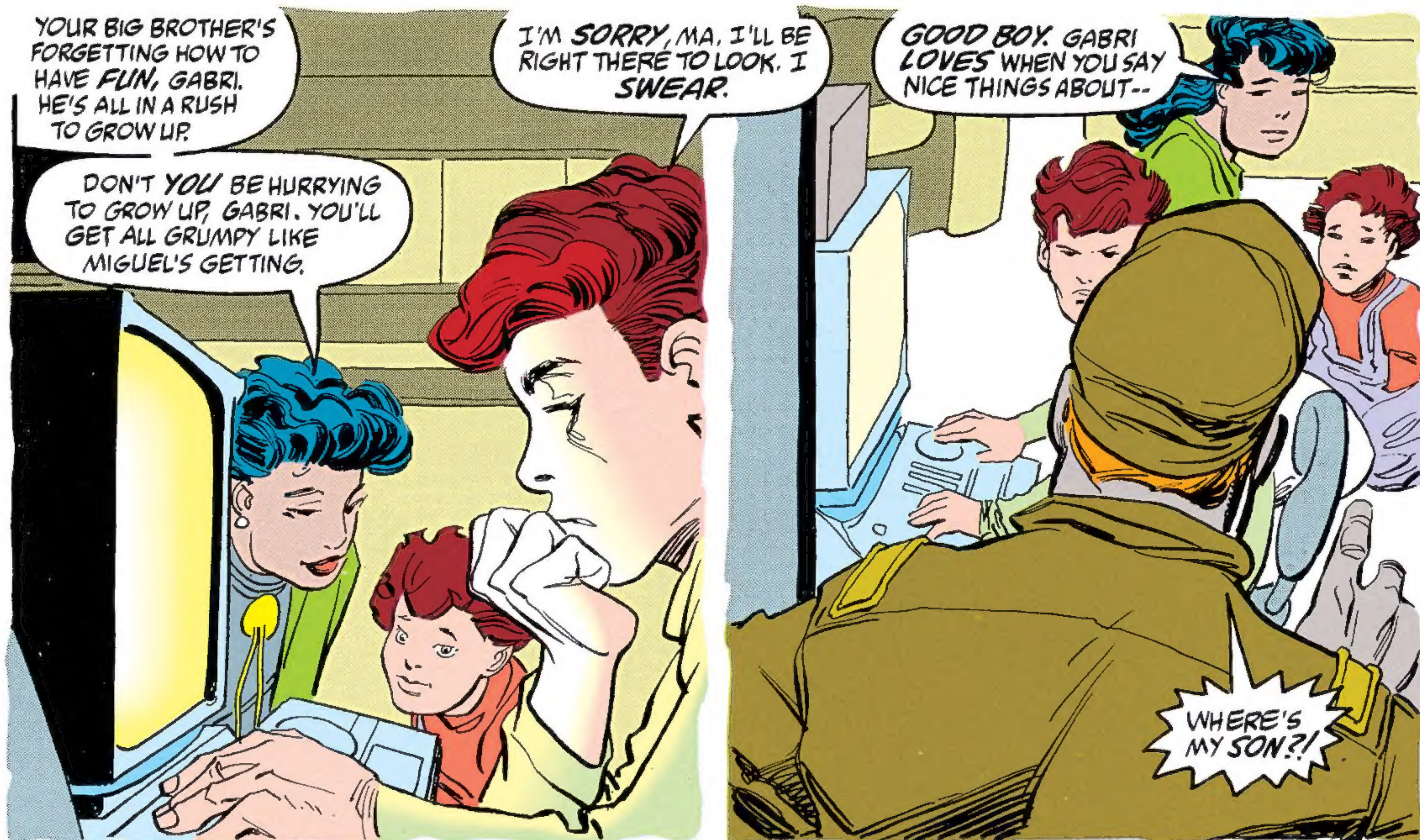
MIGGY'S
HERE, TOO.
AND DANA.
WE'RE ALL
HERE.

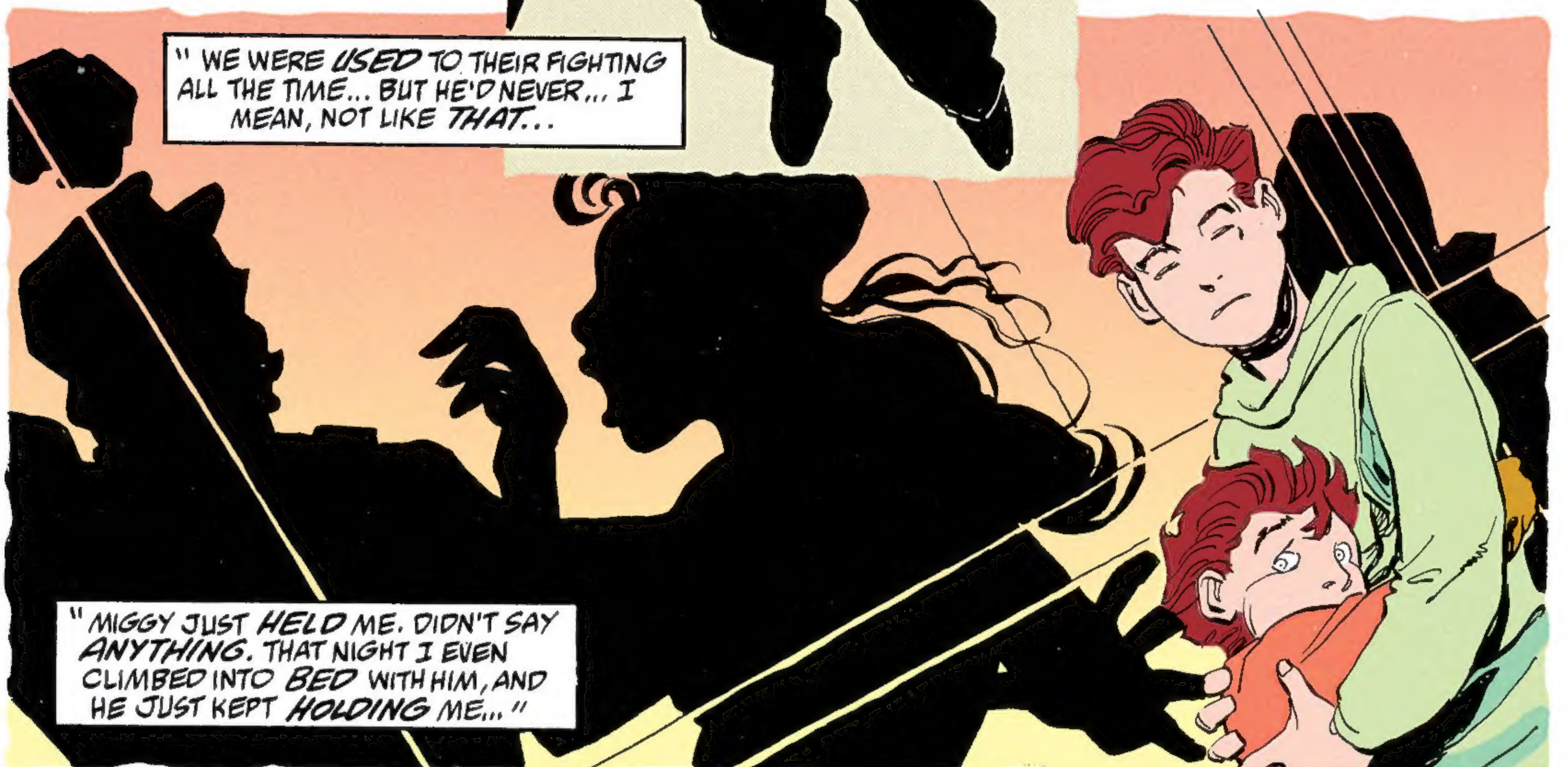
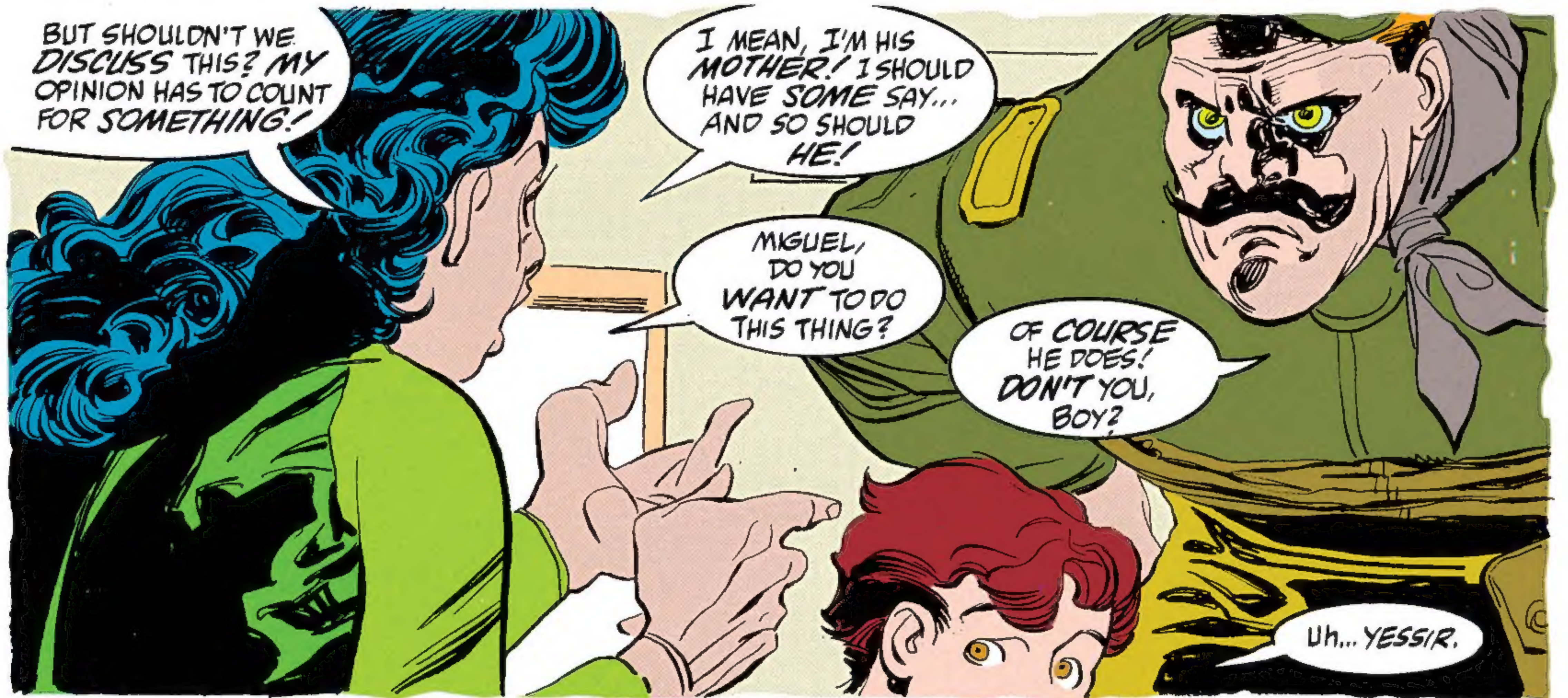


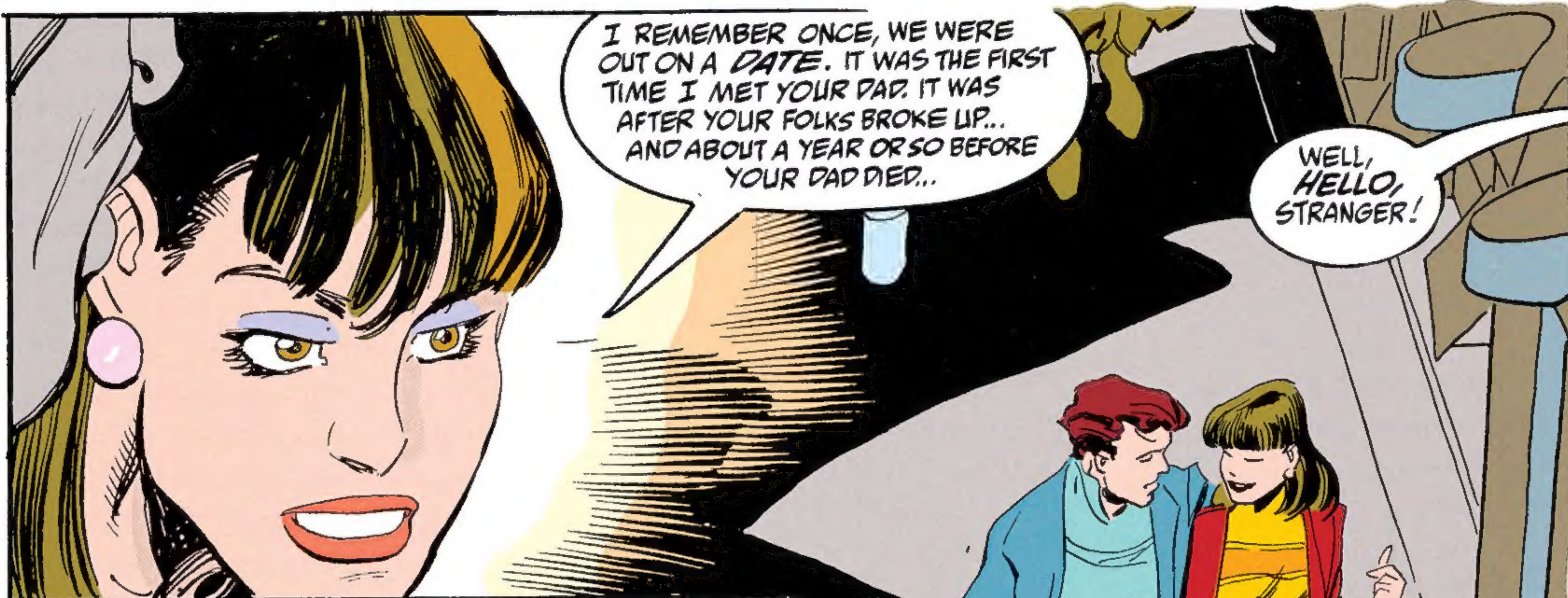
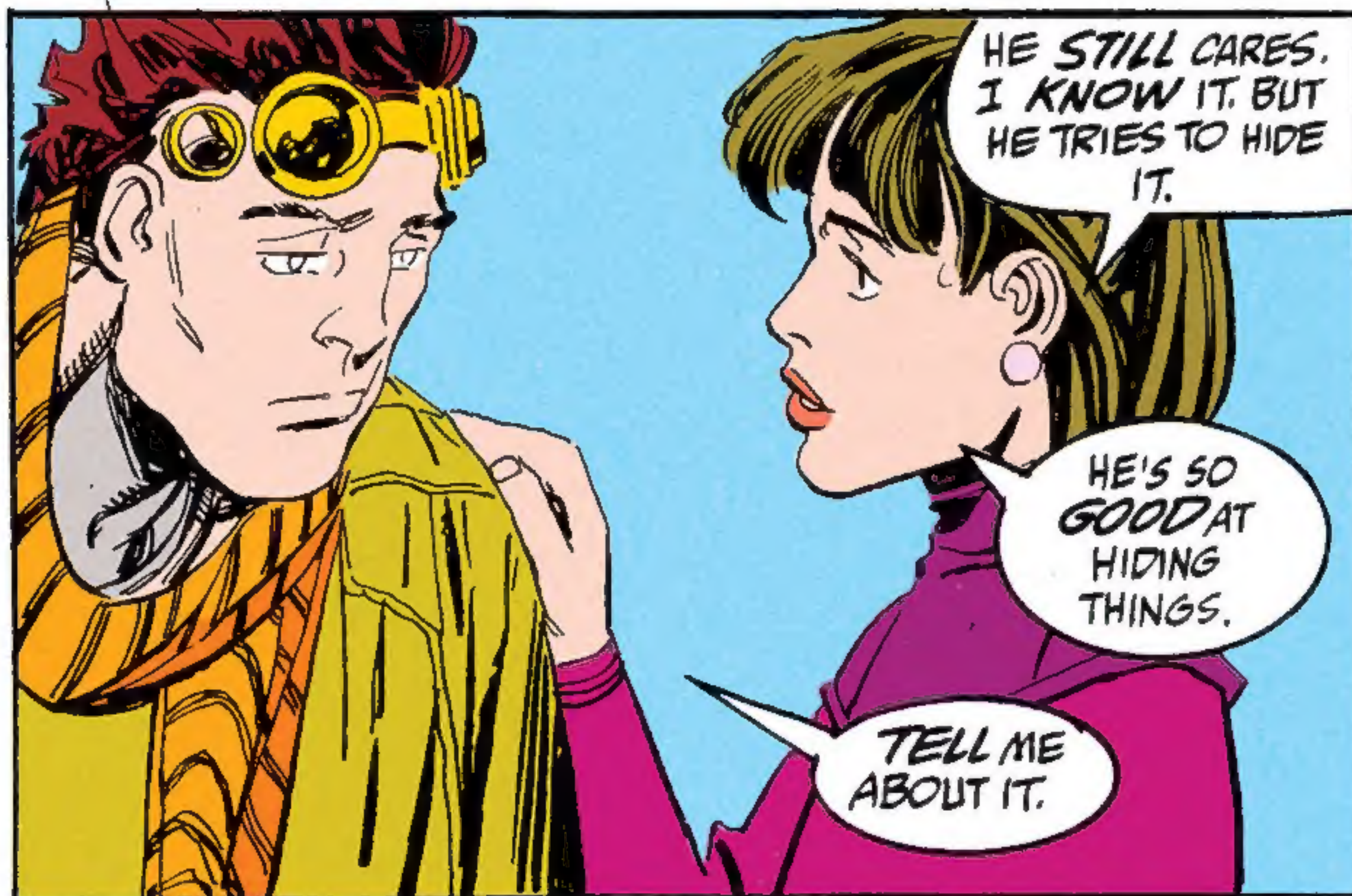
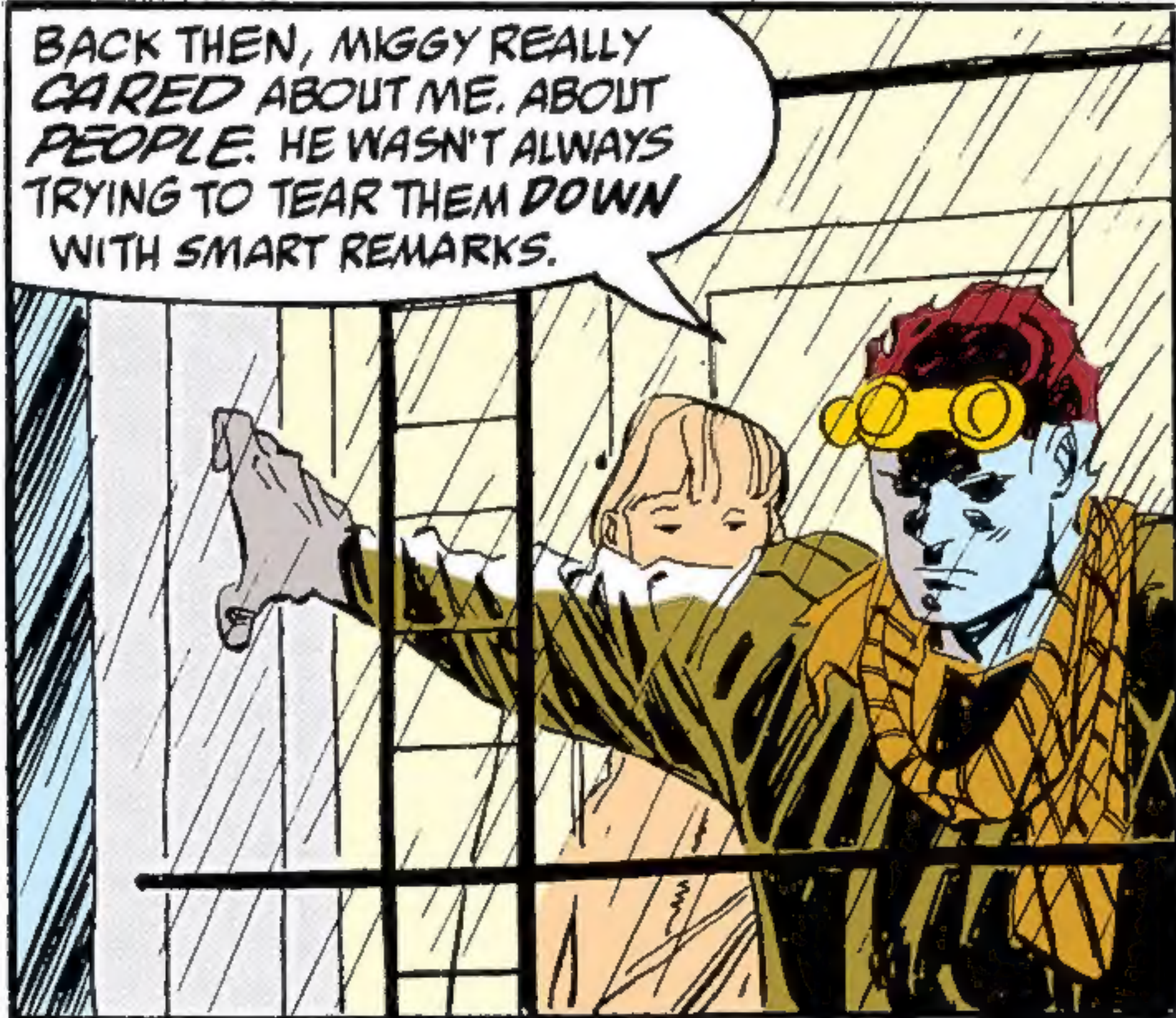














THAT'S WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN, OLD MAN. I'VE GROWN UP A LITTLE SINCE THEN.

DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF.

SO I HEAR YOU'RE GETTING REMARRIED, DAD. GOING TO MAKE SOME OTHER WOMAN SO CRAZY THAT SHE CHECKS OUT OF REALITY, YOU SICK--

MIGUEL!



MR. O'HARA, MIGUEL'S SORRY. HE DIDN'T MEAN IT.

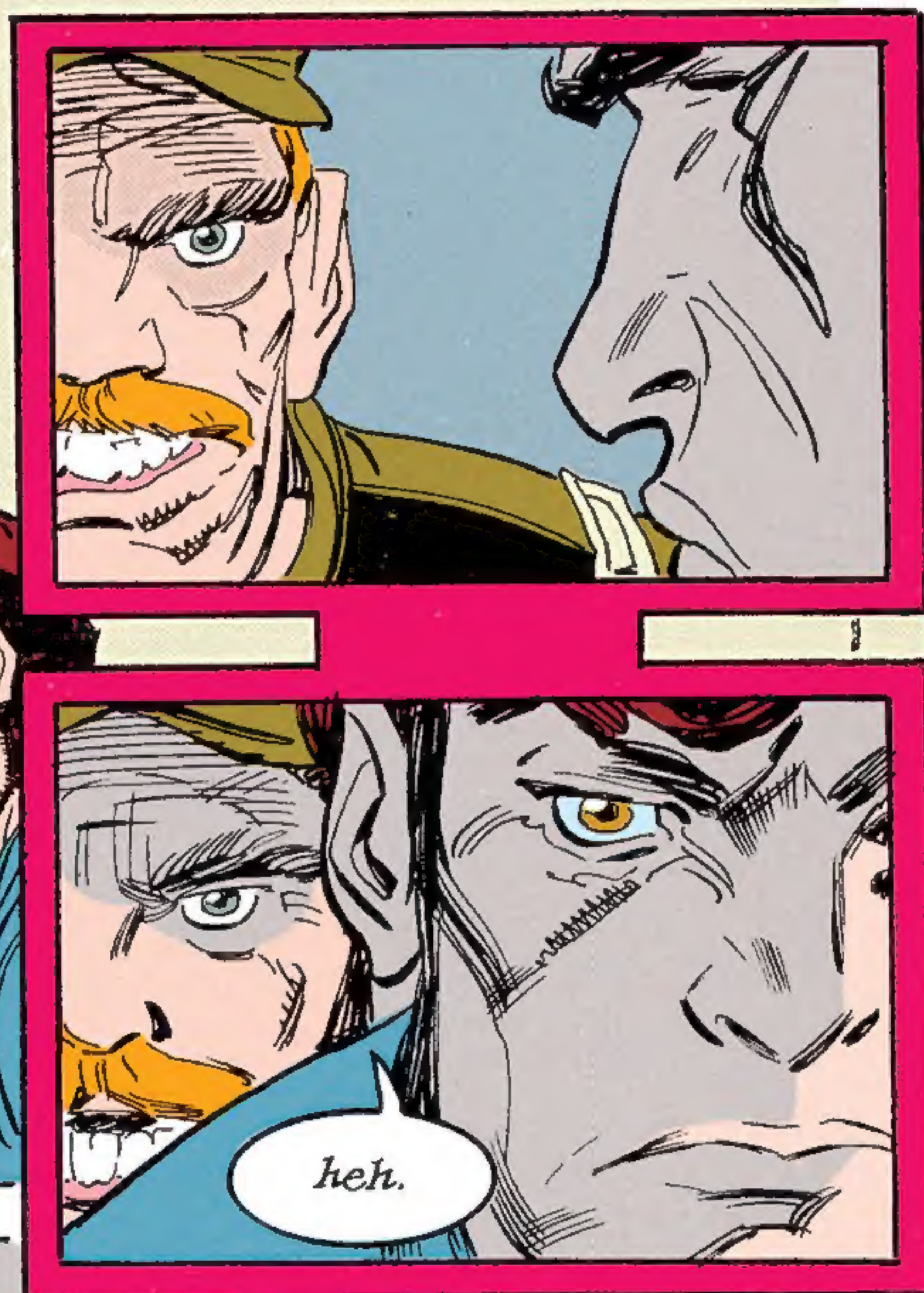


Hah! 'COURSE HE MEANT IT, COOKIE. HE'S MY SON, AND MEANS EVERY WORD.

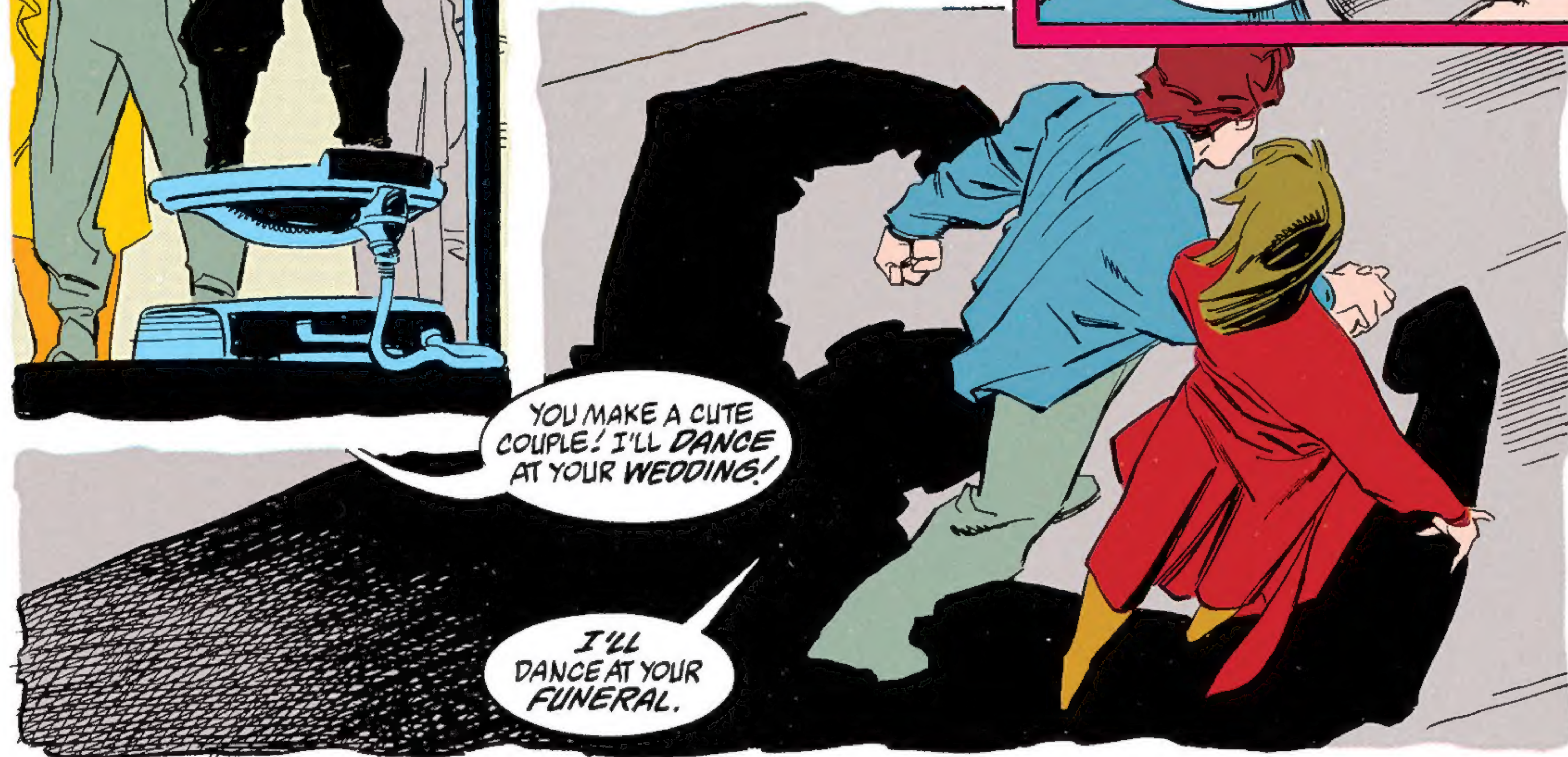


C'MON, BOY. TAKE A SWING AT ME. YOU KNOW YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO.

THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME? Huh? I MEAN, I'M JUST AN OLD MAN!

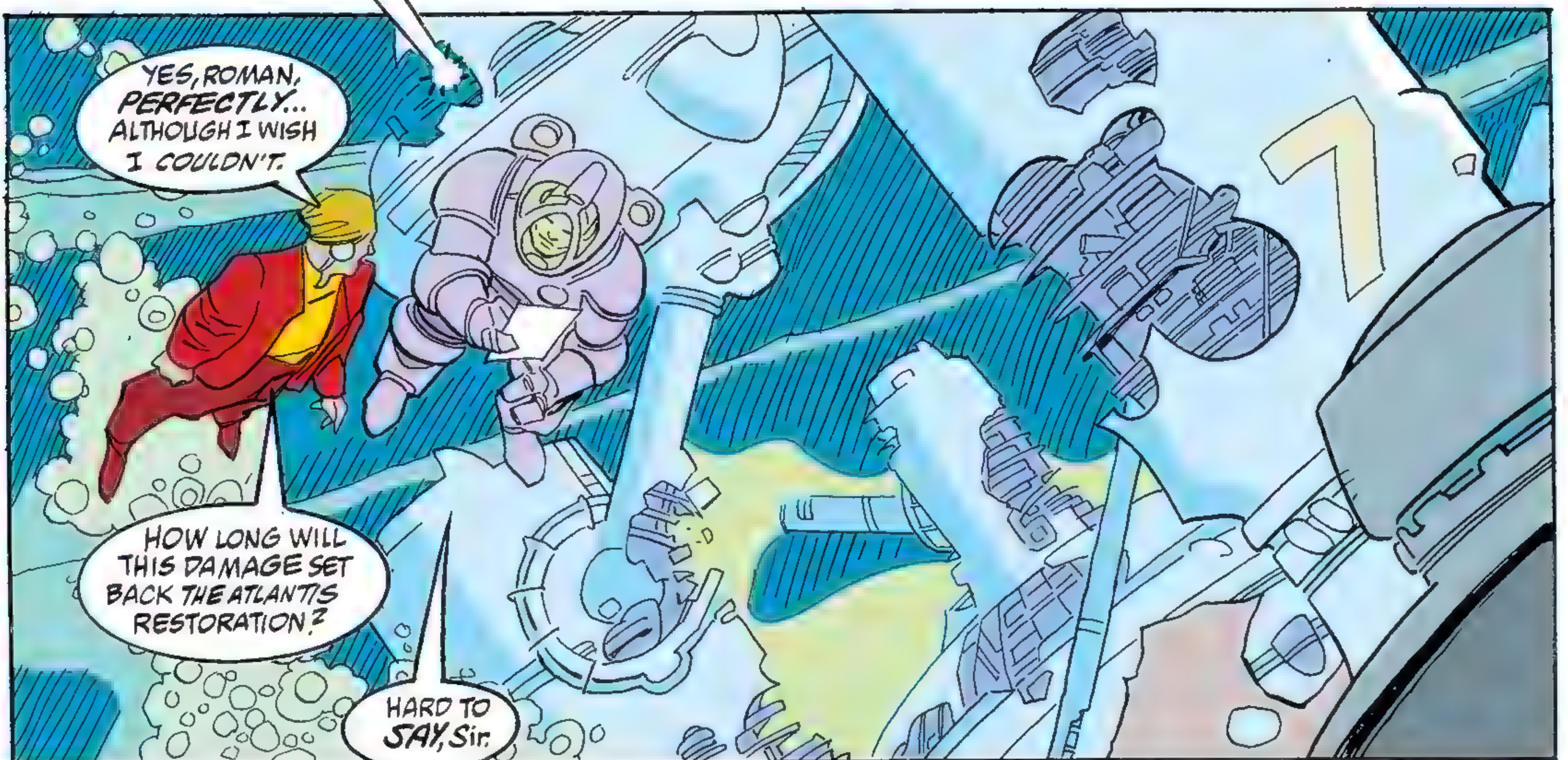
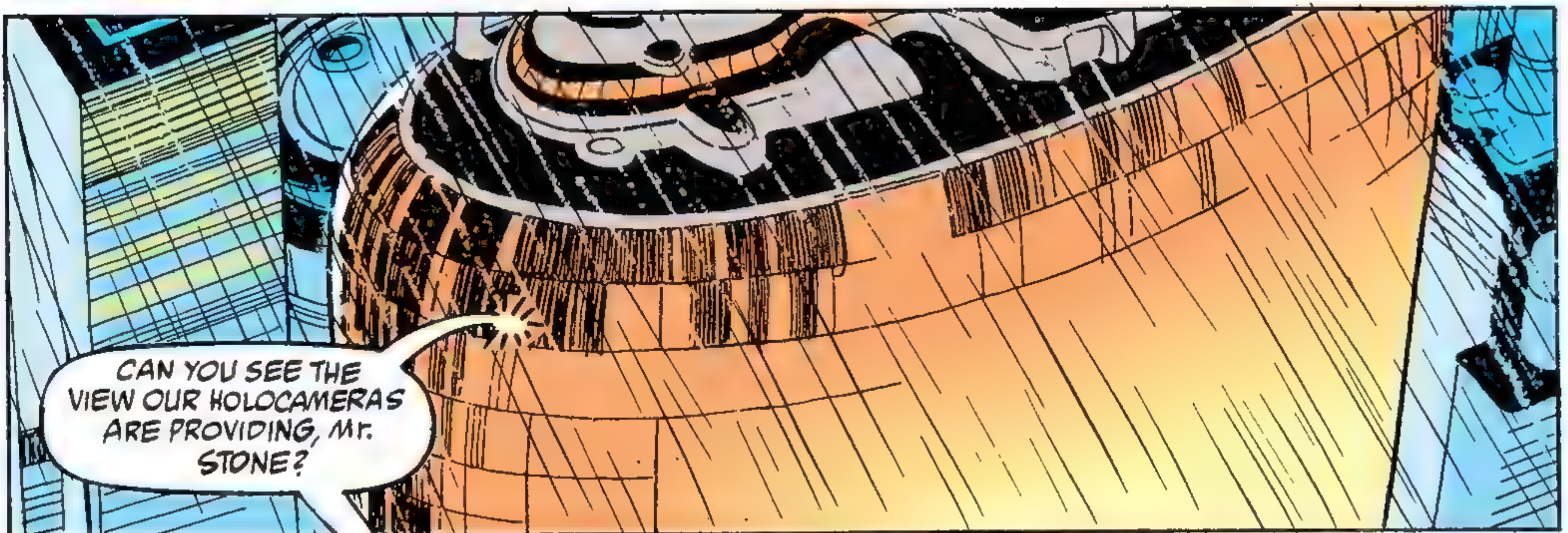
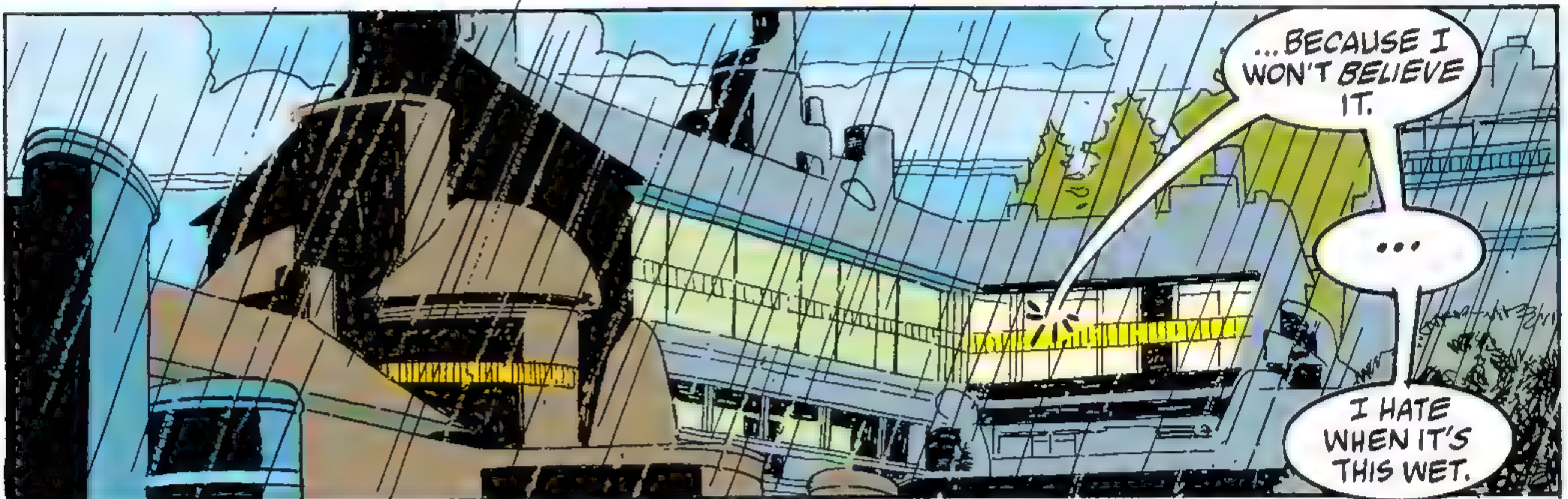
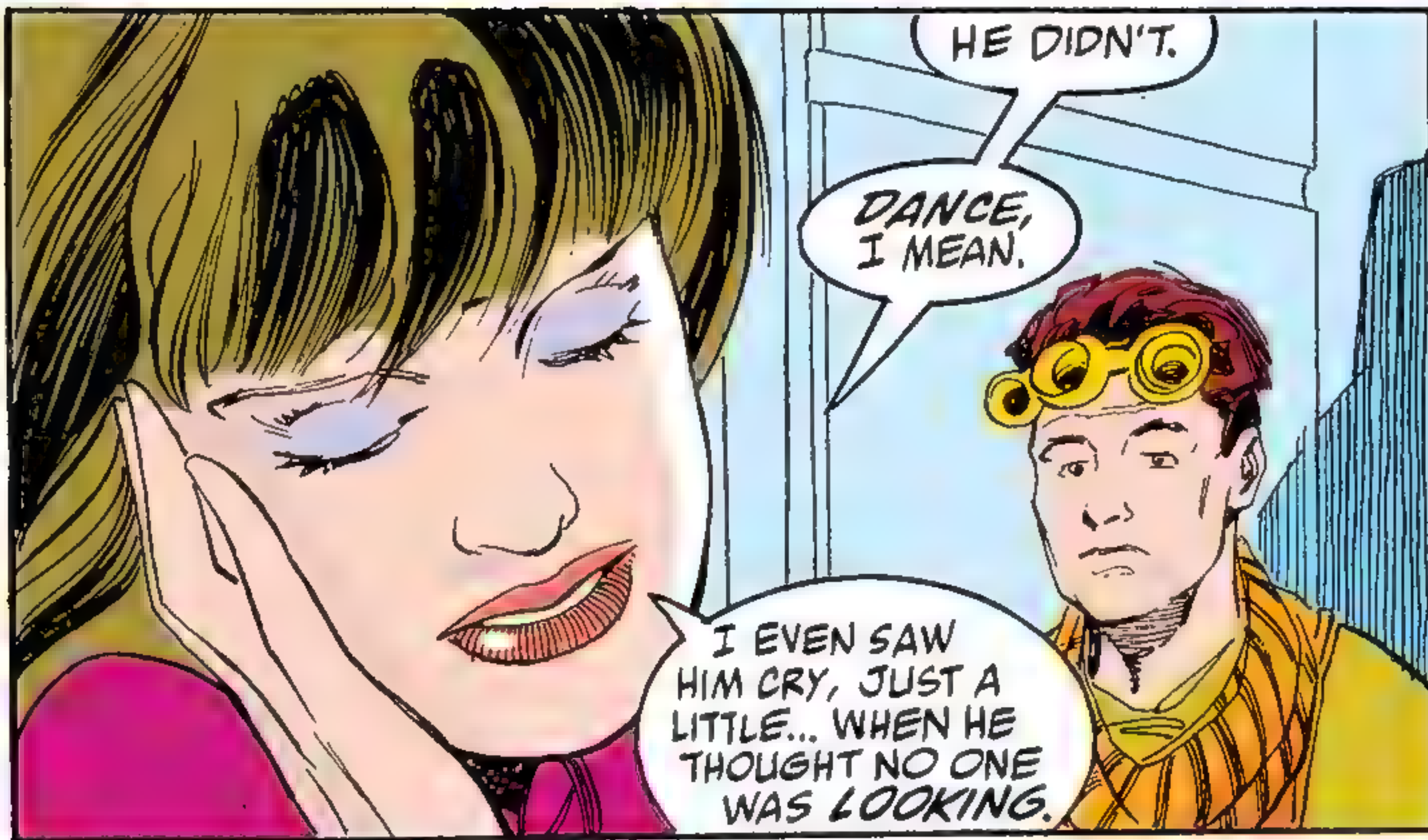


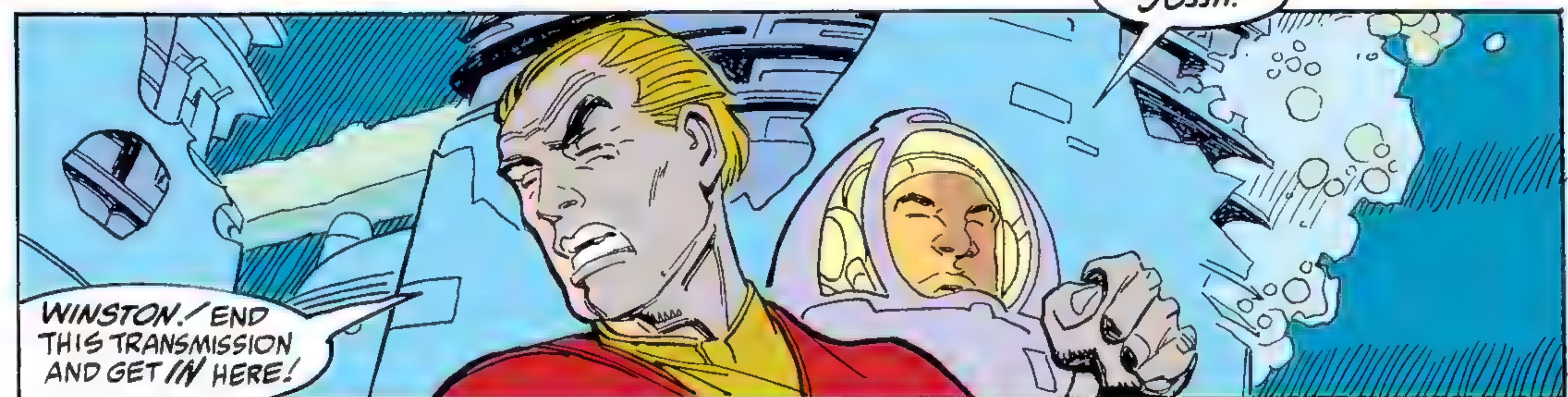
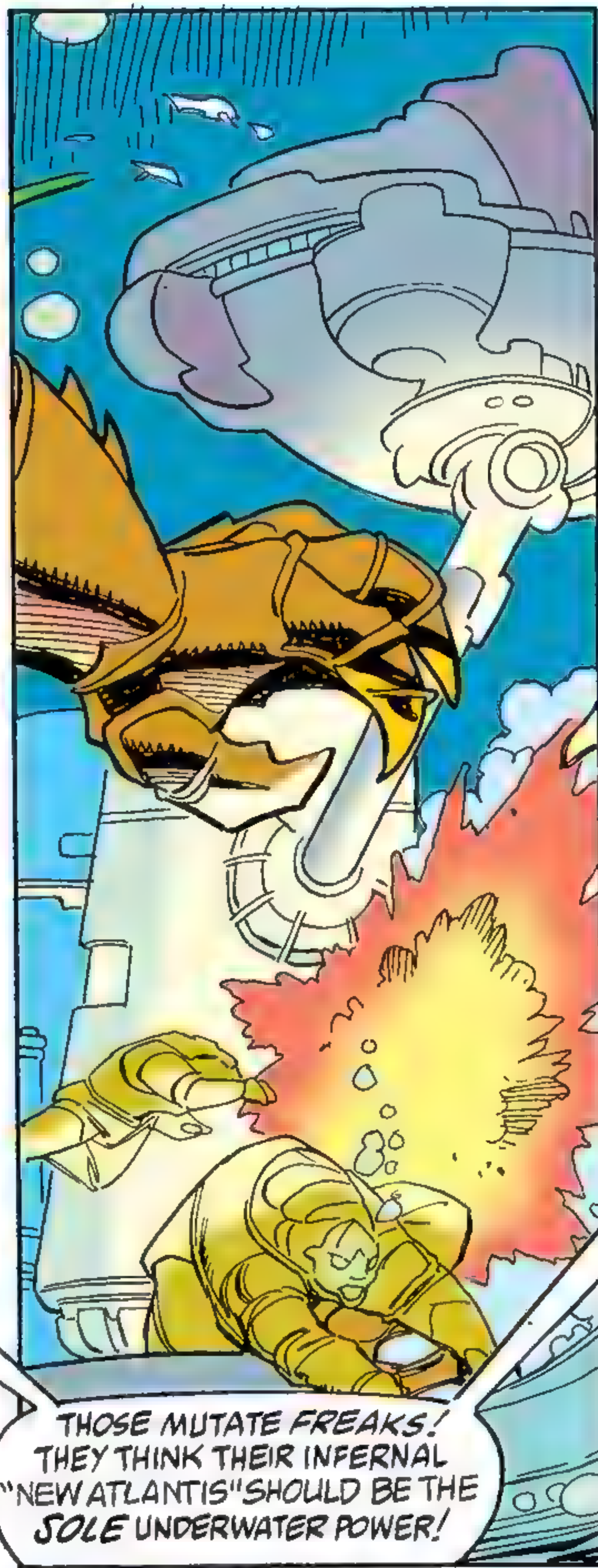
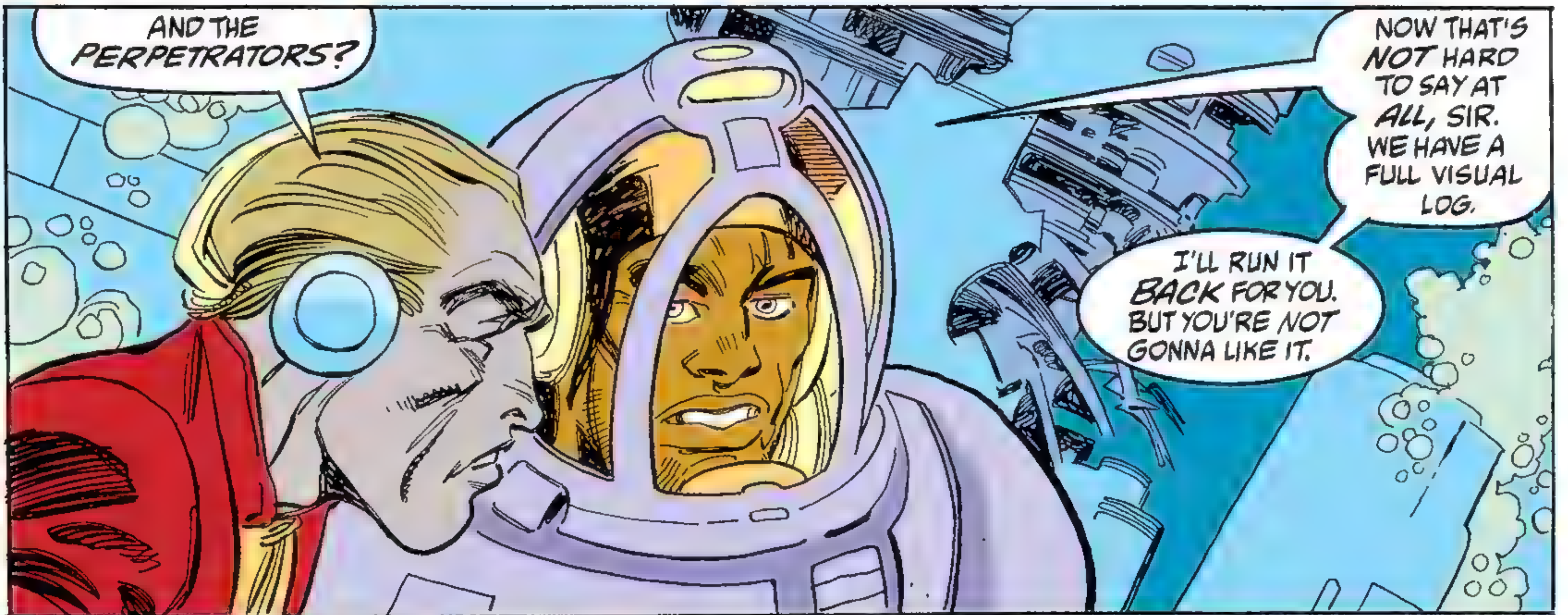
heh.

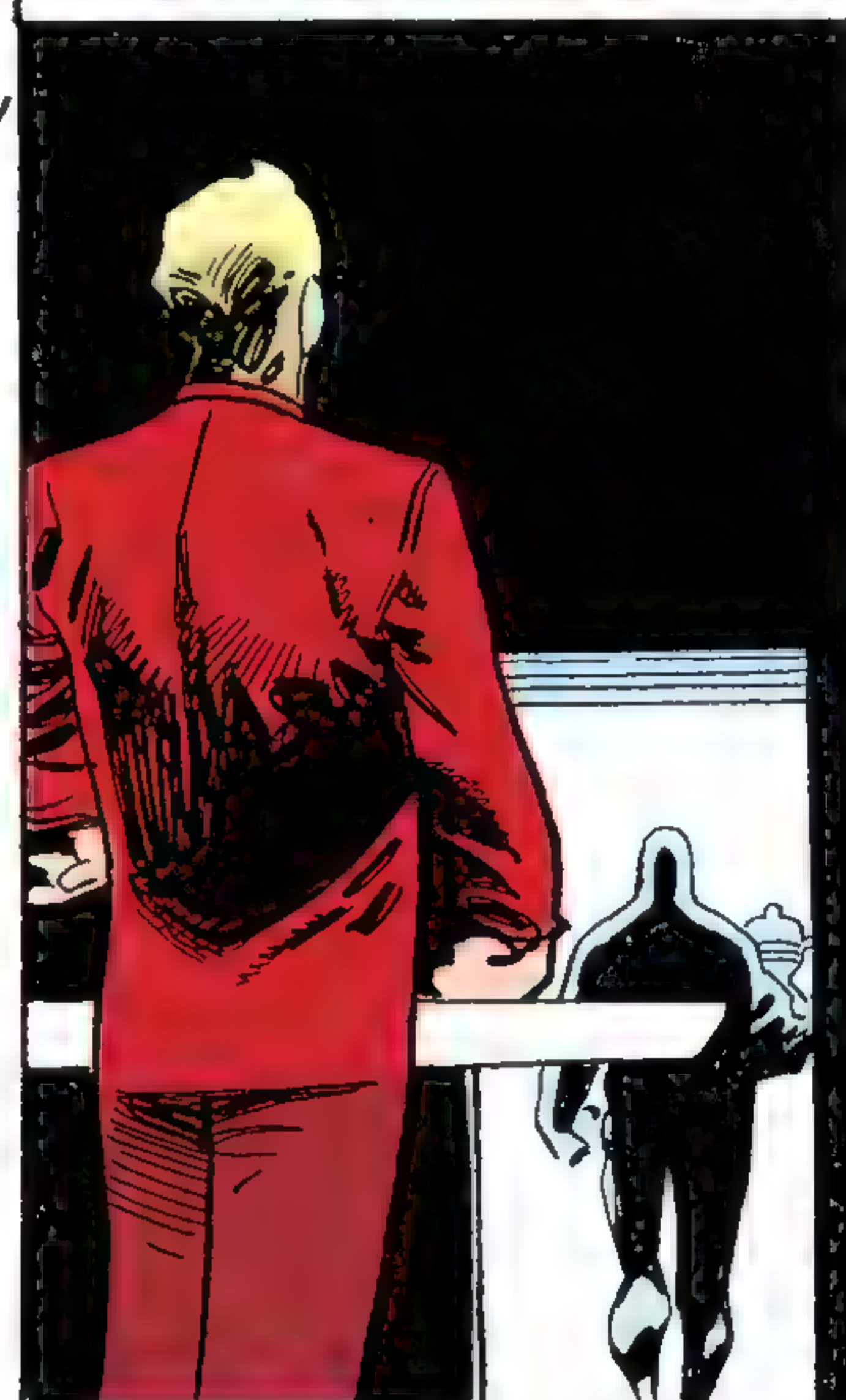
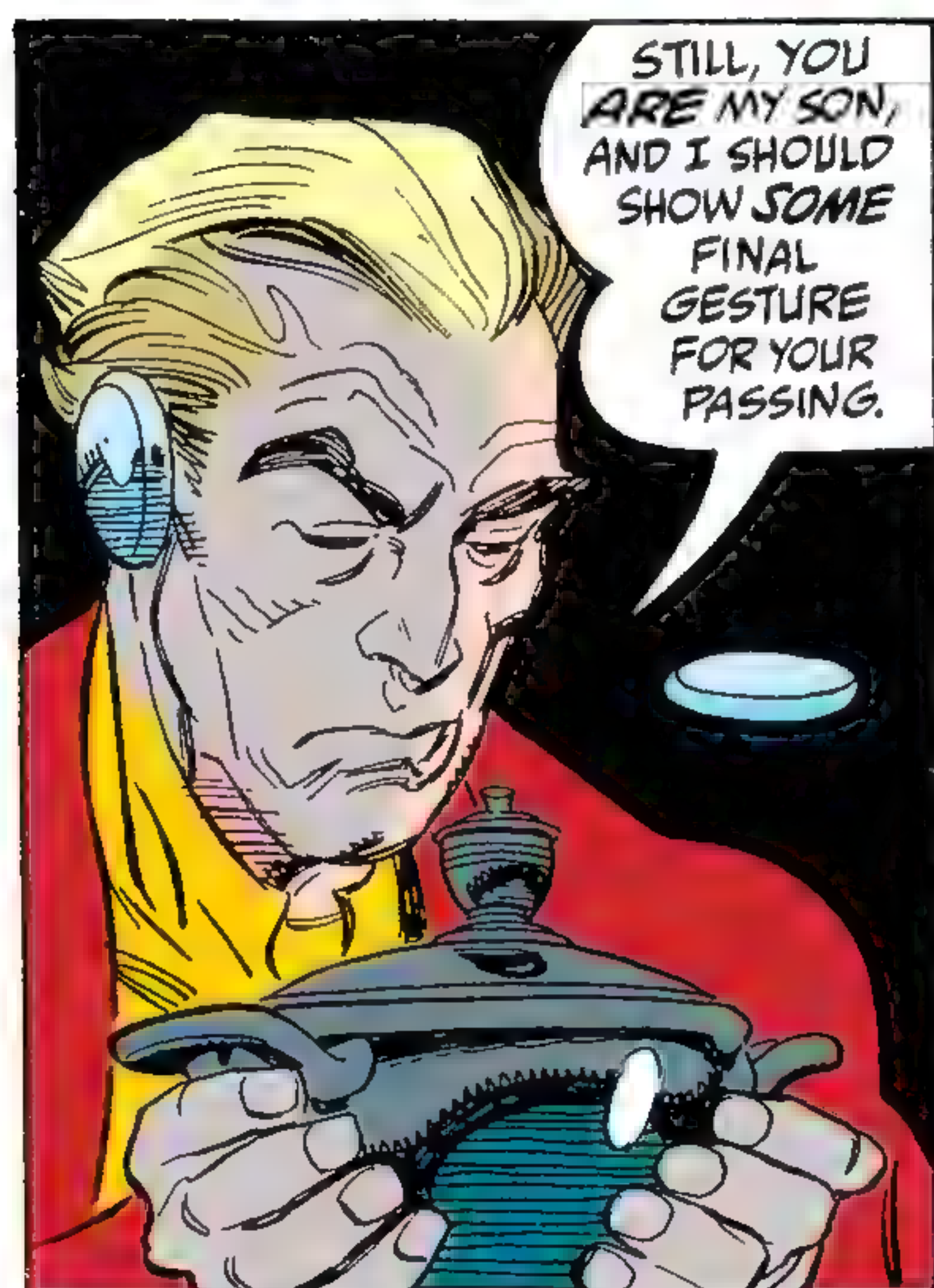
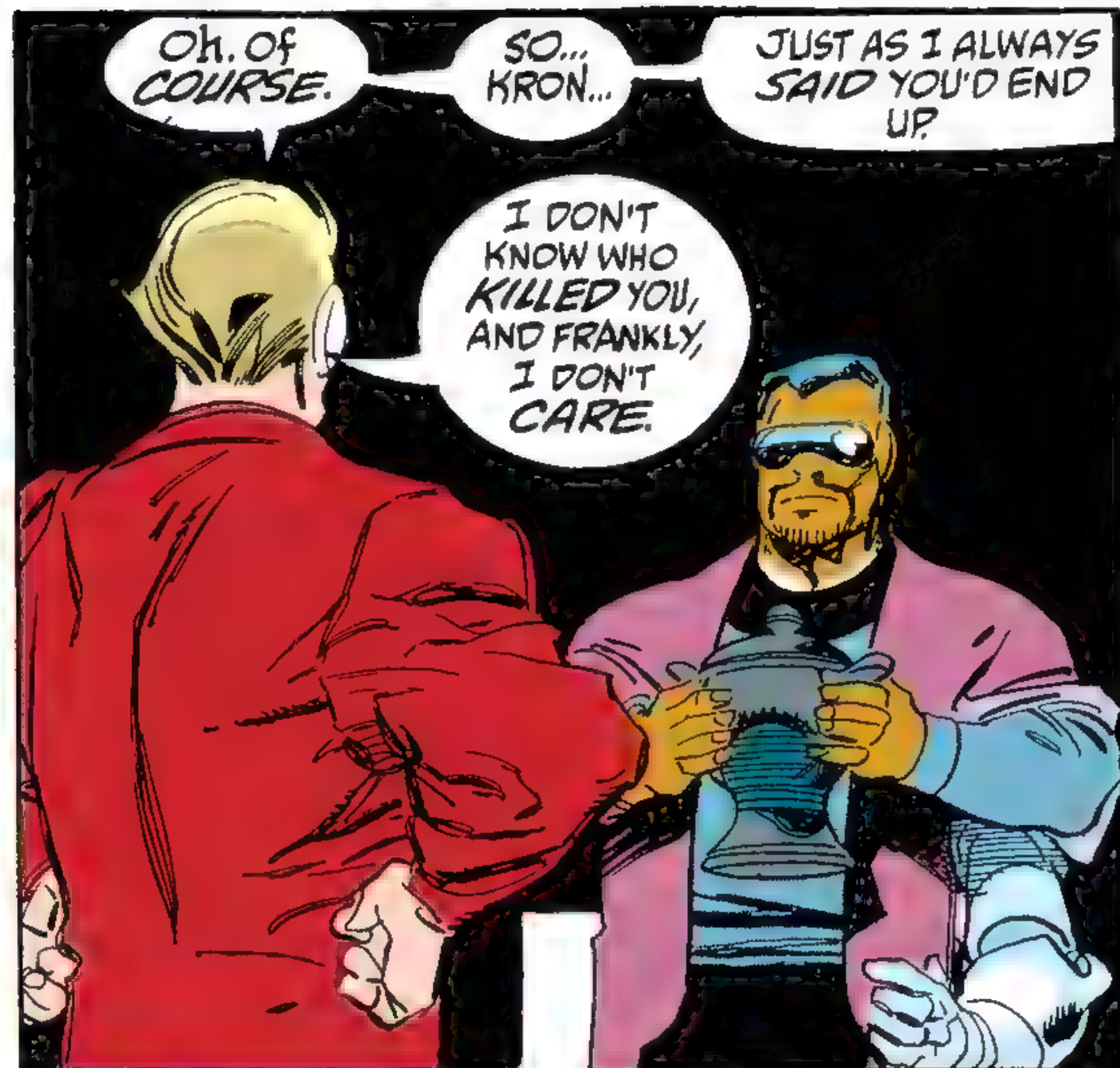
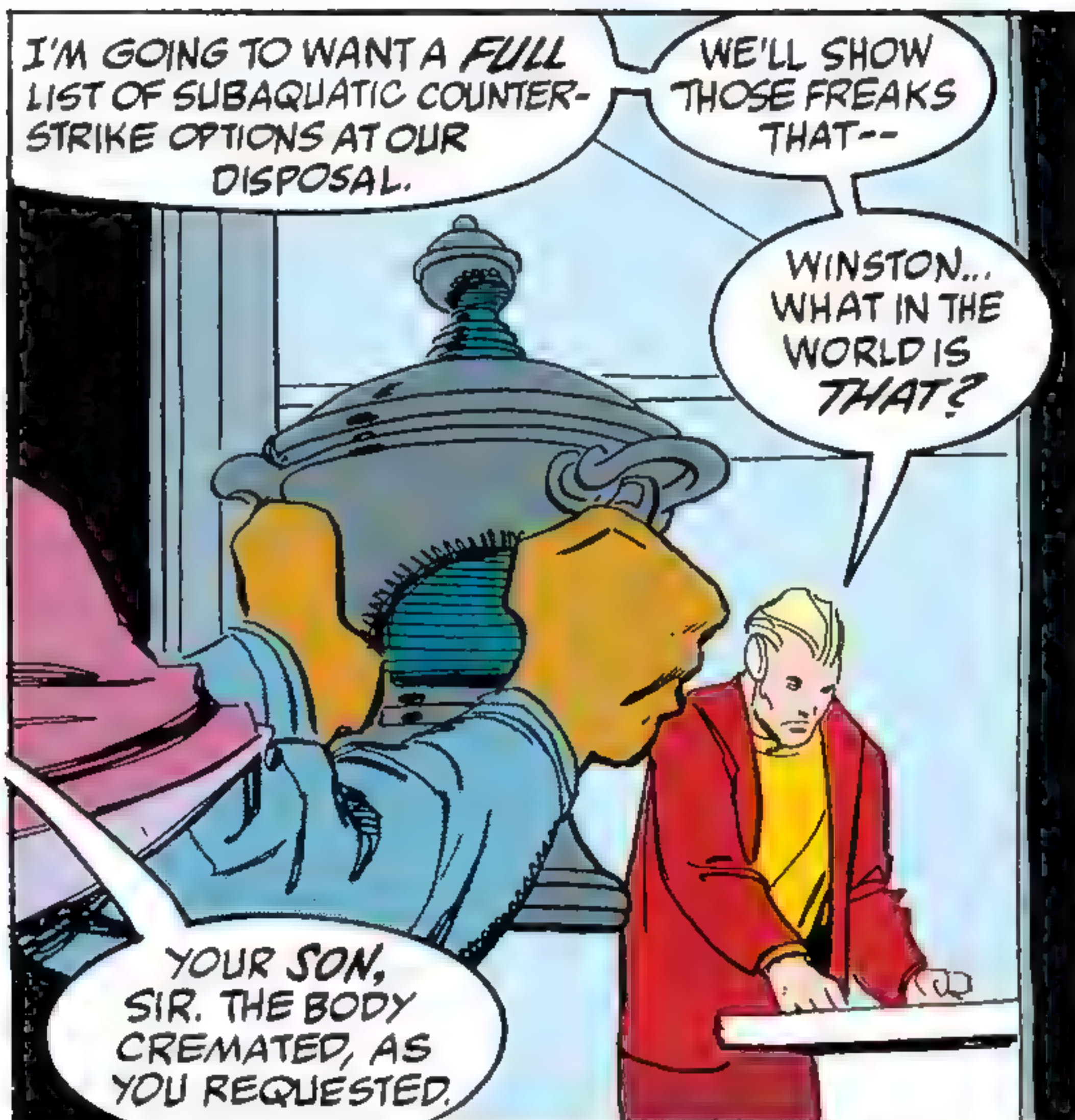


YOU MAKE A CUTE COUPLE! I'LL DANCE AT YOUR WEDDING!

I'LL DANCE AT YOUR FUNERAL.









MA!
WHERE
DID YOU
GET
THIS?!

YOU KNOW
CIGARETTES
ARE
ILLEGAL!

SO?



SO THEY CAN
KILL YOU.

SO CAN
CHILDREN.



MA... I'M
SORRY I
HAVEN'T BEEN
VISITING YOU
MORE OFTEN!



LIAR!



OOOKAY.
I'M GLAD I
HAVEN'T BEEN
VISITING YOU
MORE OFTEN!



FRESH!



FEEL BETTER, CRAZY LADY?

LOOK, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

NOTHING.

NO, MA! NOT AGAIN! WE GO THROUGH THIS *ALL* THE TIME, AND YOU PLAY THESE *GAMES* AND I'M TIRED OF IT! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT IT DOES TO GABRI? TO ME?

IT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU. YOU'RE COMPLETELY SELF-CENTERED

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

OH, YES IT IS. I KEEP WAITING FOR YOU TO CHANGE, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. WHY CAN'T YOU BE A REAL CARING MAN, LIKE...

LIKE *WHO*, MA? LIKE GABRIEL? YOU GOING TO START TELLING ME AGAIN ABOUT HOW LOVING HE IS, AND...

NO, BECAUSE EVERY TIME I DO, YOU JUST MAKE *FUN* OF HIM, AND HE'S SUCH A GENTLE SOUL.

BUT HERE'S SOMEONE YOU WOULDN'T DARE MAKE FUN OF!

SPIDERMAN

A REAL MAN! SOMEONE WHO'S NOT AFRAID TO SPIT IN THE CORPORATE EYE!



SOMEONE WHO
SEES THE **BIG**
PICTURE, AND IS
TRYING TO
REDRAW
IT.

SOMEONE
WHO **CARES**.



AND WHAT IF HE'S **NOT**
LIKE THAT, HUH? EVER
THINK OF **THAT**?

MAYBE HE'S JUST...
JUST SOMEONE WHO GOT
CAUGHT UP IN THINGS.
SOMEONE WHO...

IF HE **NEVER** PUT THE COSTUME
ON AGAIN, HE'D BE PERFECTLY HAPPY
TO GO BACK TO HIS LIFE. WHAT IF...?



**DON'T
START!**

DON'T START
TRYING TO TEAR
HIM DOWN, TOO!
HE'S EVERYTHING
YOU **AREN'T**!



OH, YEAH?
OH, YEAH,
CRAZY LADY?

YEAH!

WELL, TRY
THIS ON,
CRAZY LADY!



I'M SPIDER-MAN!
ME! YOUR SON!



ALL I EVER WANTED WAS TO BE IMPORTANT.

WORKING FOR ALCHEMAX WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING... BUT I WAS IMPORTANT TO ALL THE WRONG PEOPLE.

BEING SPIDER-MAN IS THE WRONG THING... LAW-WISE, HEALTH-WISE... BUT HE'S IMPORTANT TO ALL THE RIGHT PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE I'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD AT IGNORING.

WHEN I PUT ON THAT COSTUME... I START THINKING AND ACTING DIFFERENTLY. FACE IT... "SPIDER-MAN" IS STARTING TO TAKE OVER WHEN THE MASK GOES ON.

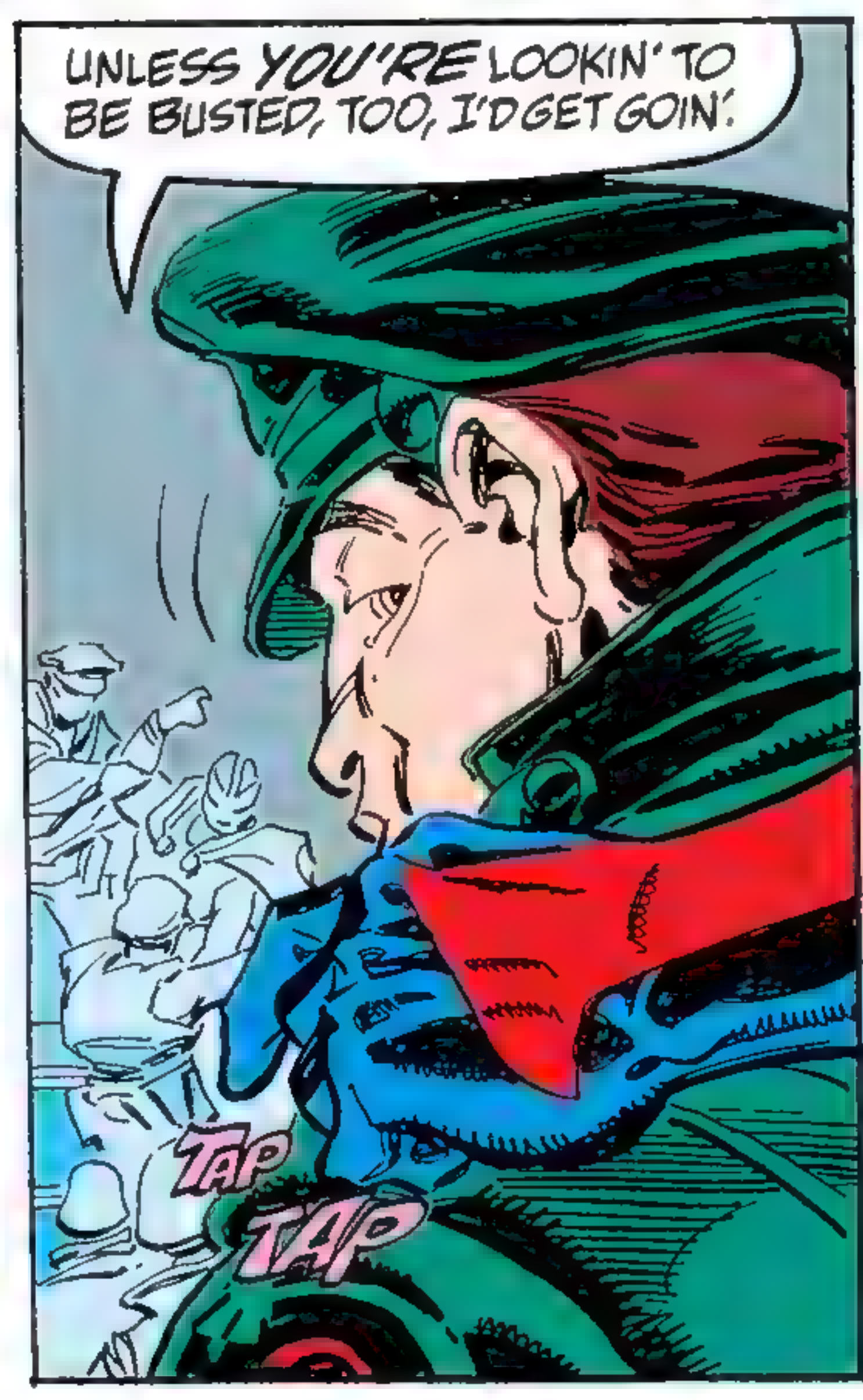
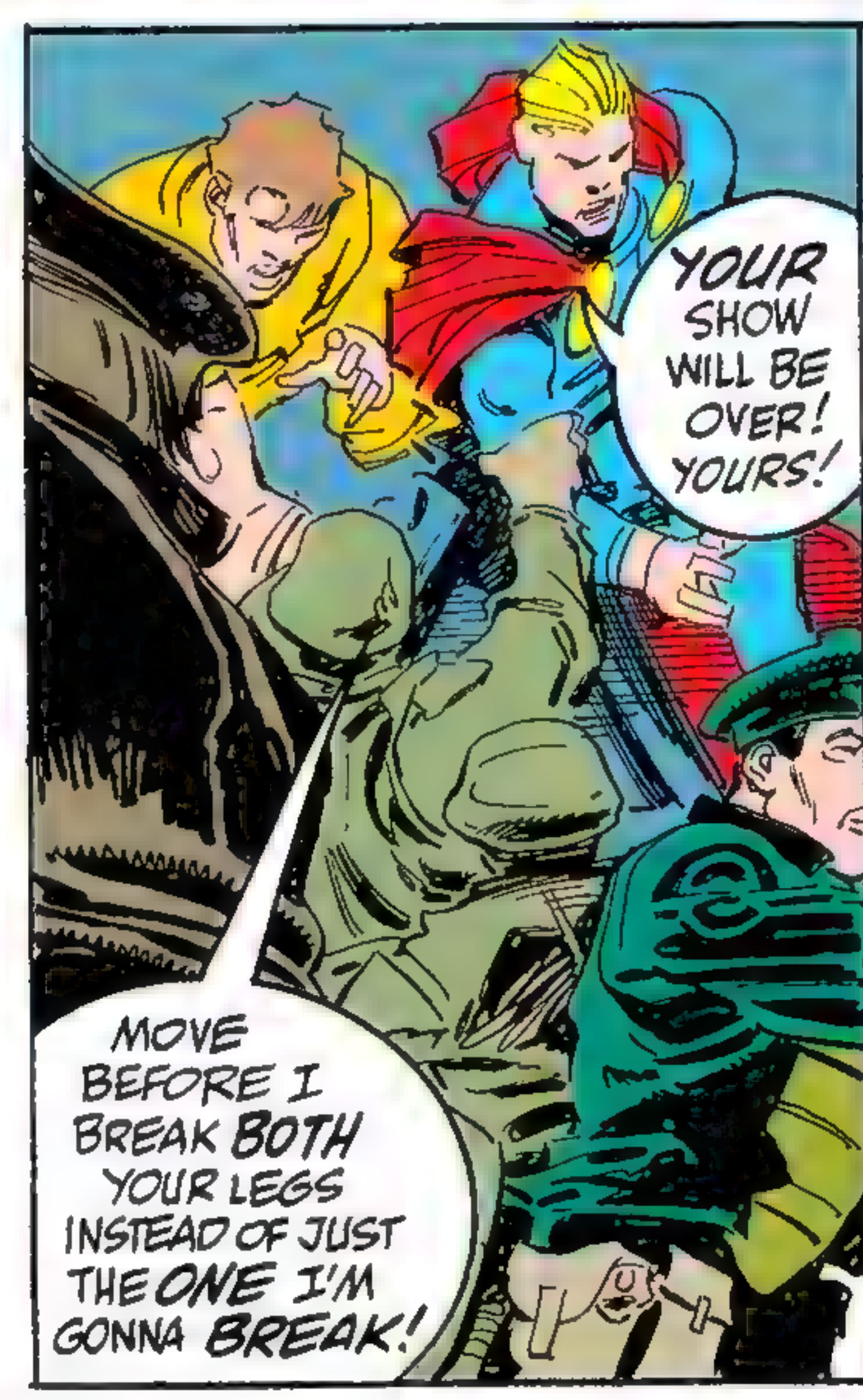
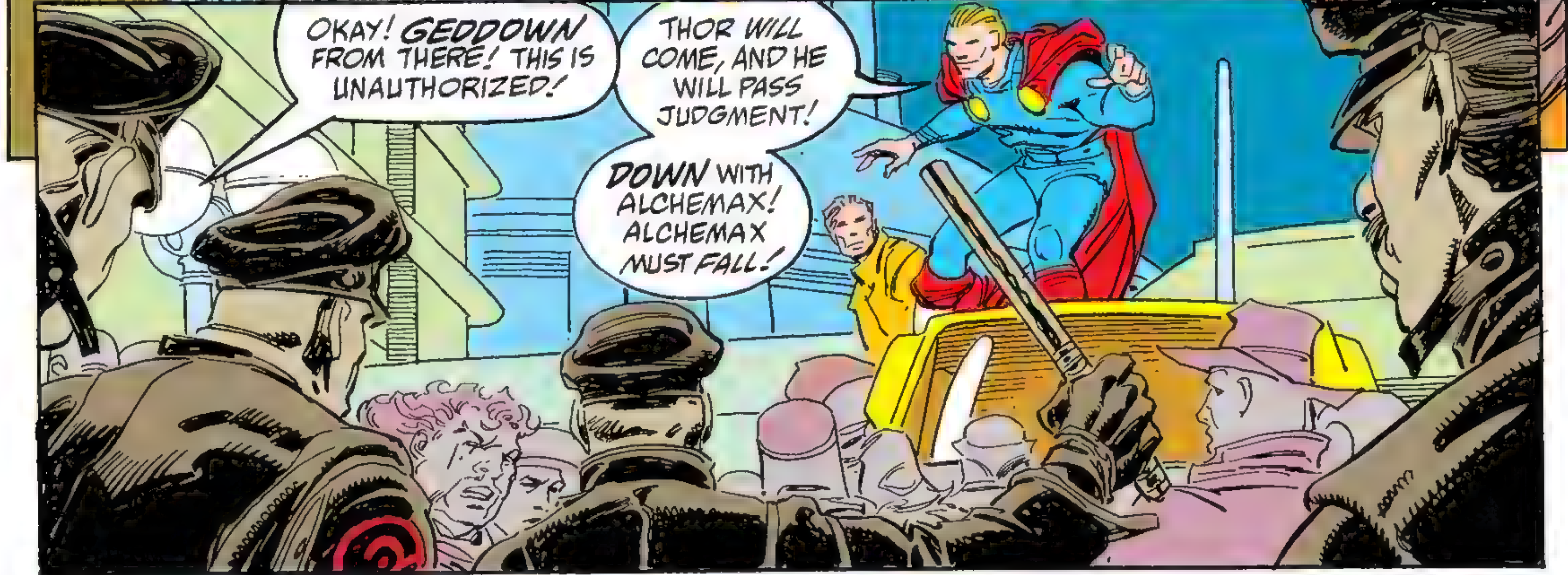
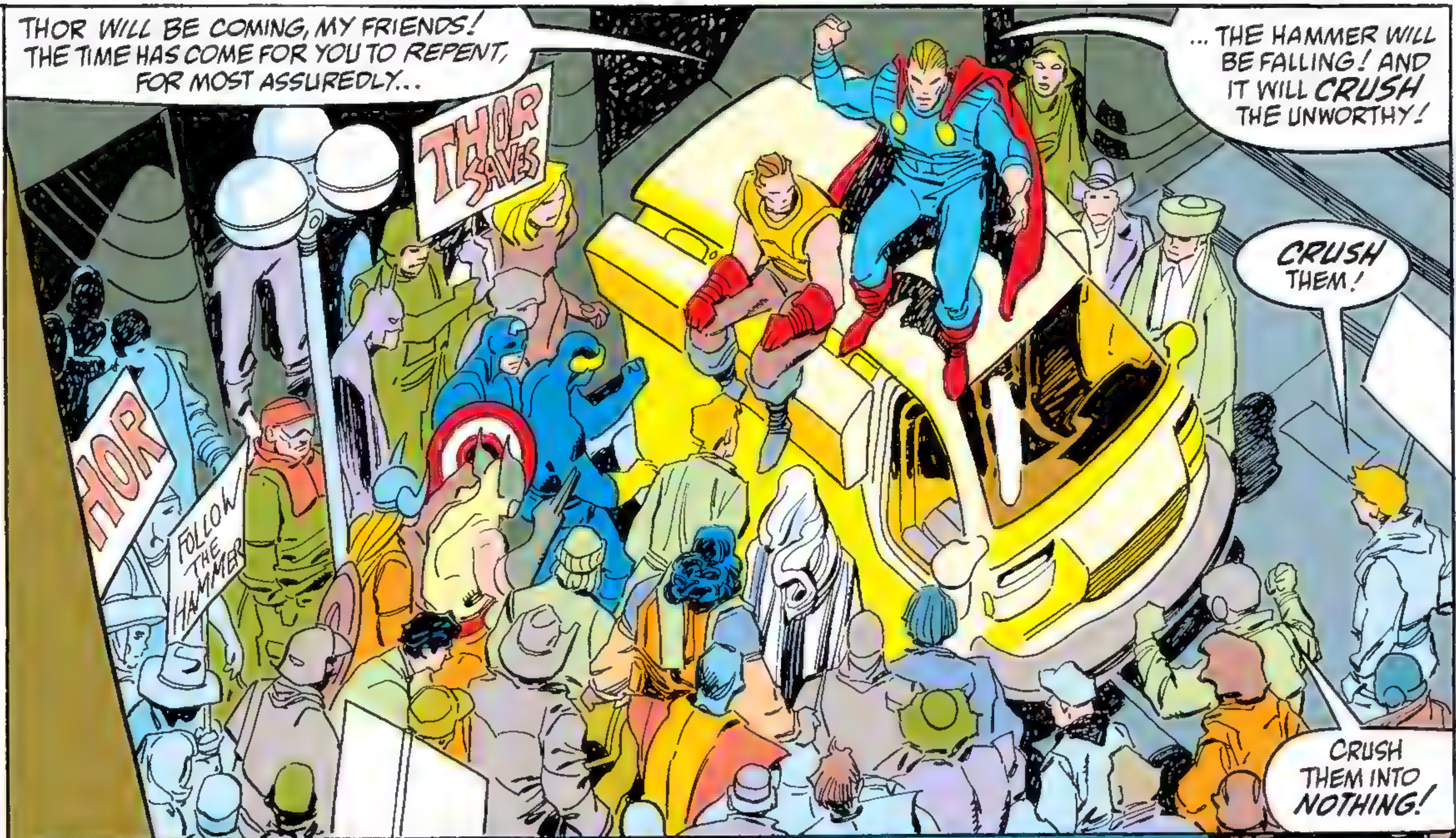
IT WAS MIGUEL-IN-THE-COSTUME WHO SAVED THE SPECIALIST... AND ALMOST GOT KILLED IN REPAYMENT. AND WHEN THE VULTURE WAS FALLING... SPIDER-MAN, HAVING LEARNED THE LESSON, LET HIM.

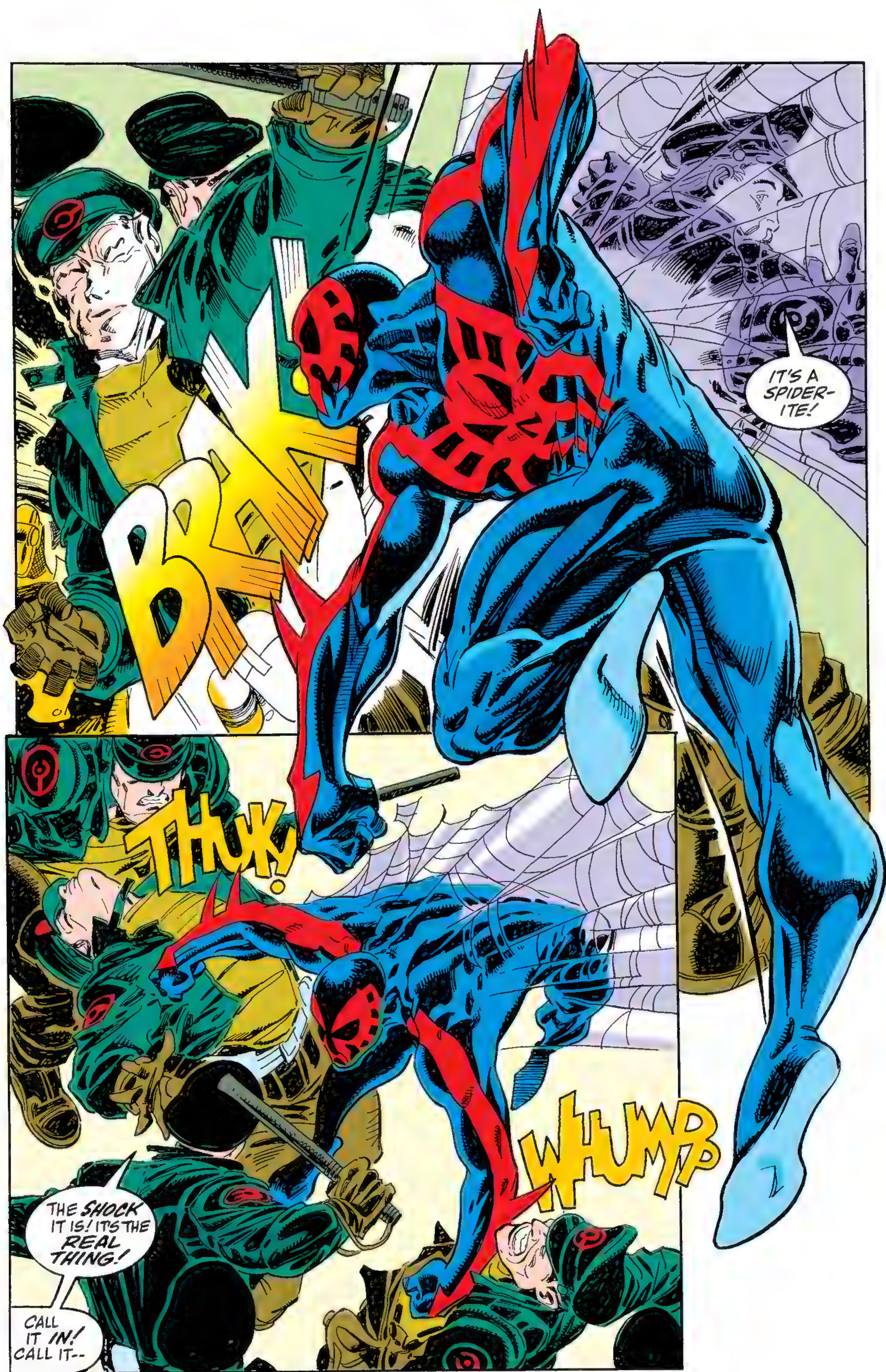
MIGUEL WENT DOWNTOWN, BUT SPIDER-MAN CAME BACK UP. AND SINCE "MIGUEL" ISN'T THE LEAST BIT SORRY THE VULTURE FELL... IT'S LOOKING LIKE SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T NECESSARILY VANISH WHEN THE MASK COMES OFF.

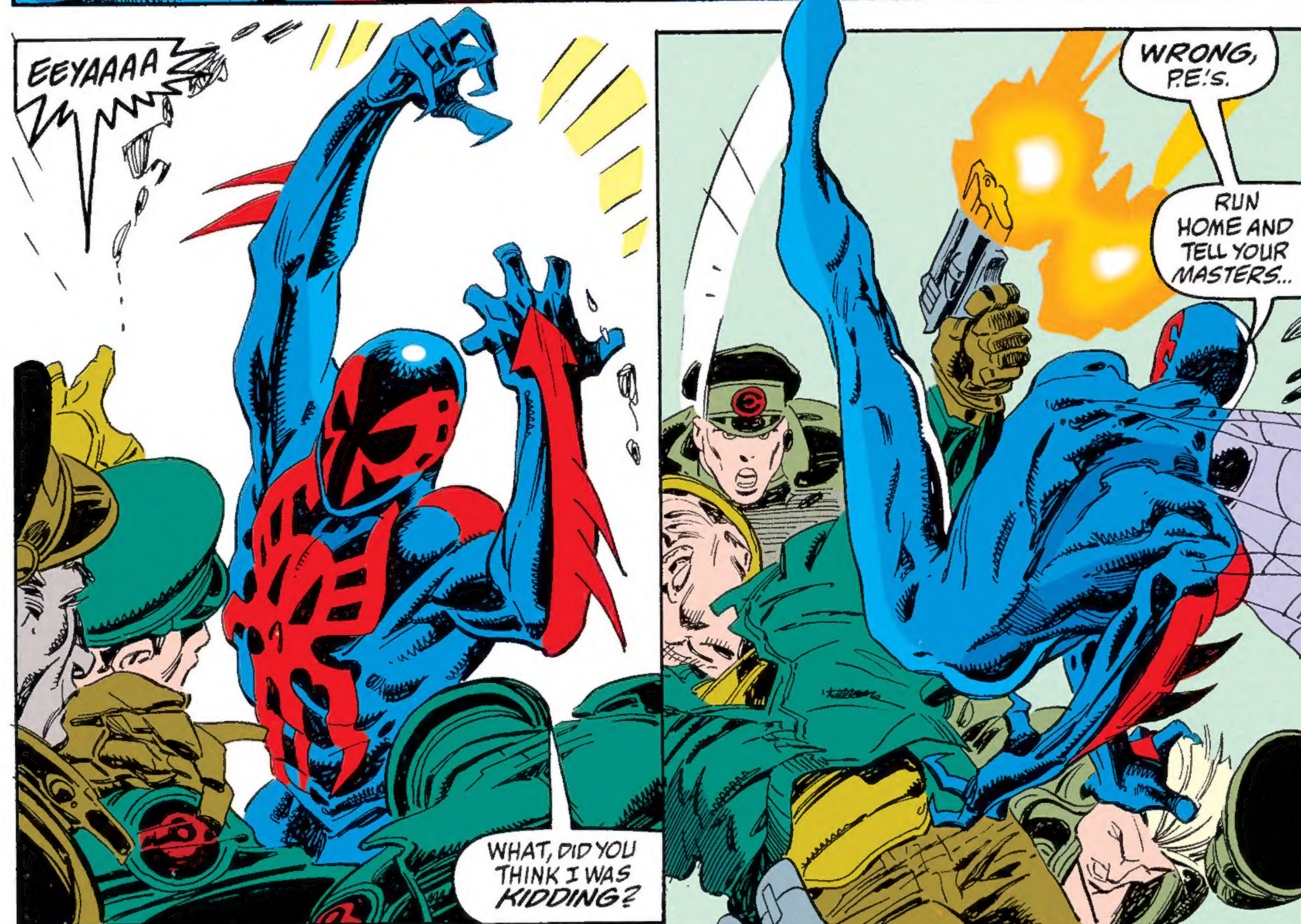
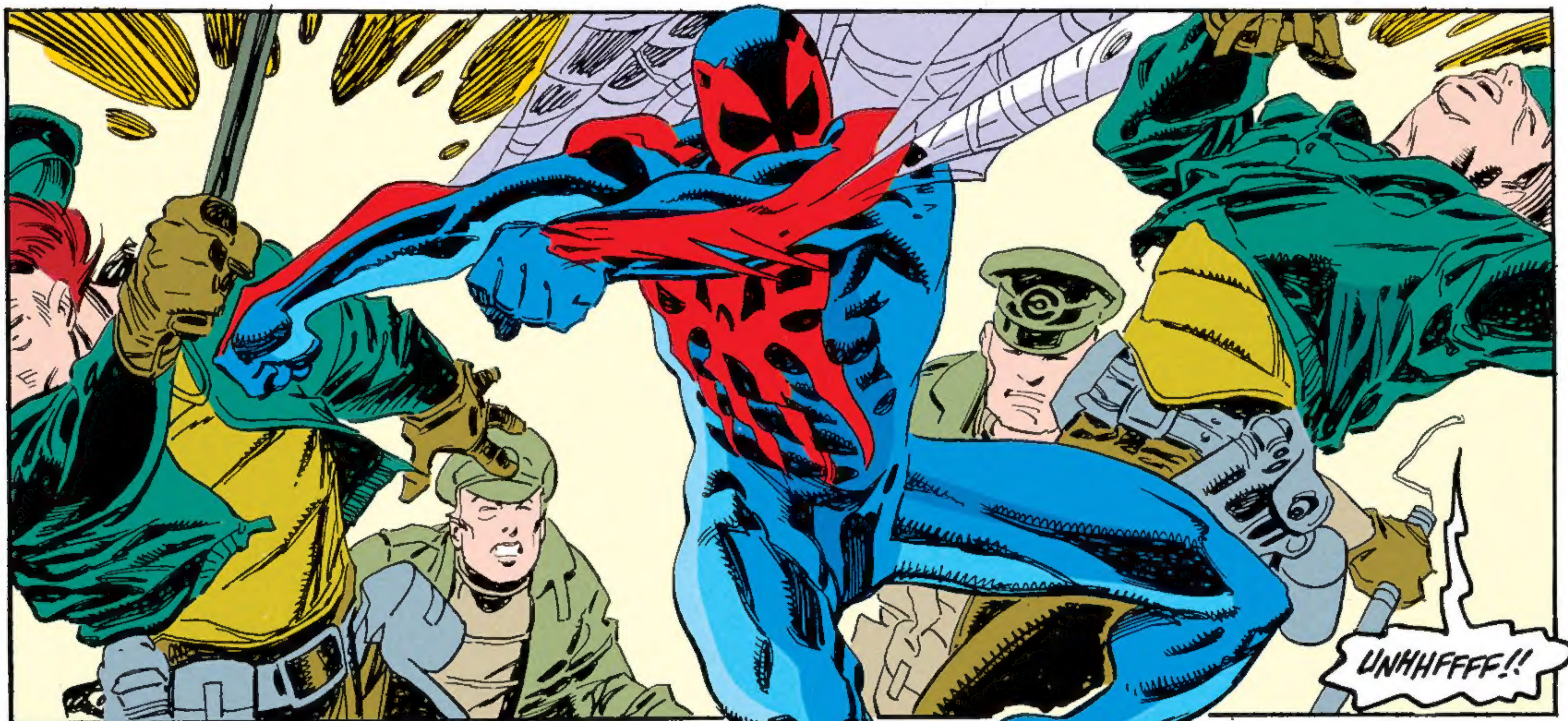
THE WORLD WE'RE LIVING IN... GABRI SAW IT. KASEY SAW IT. EVEN THE CRAZY LADY SAW IT.

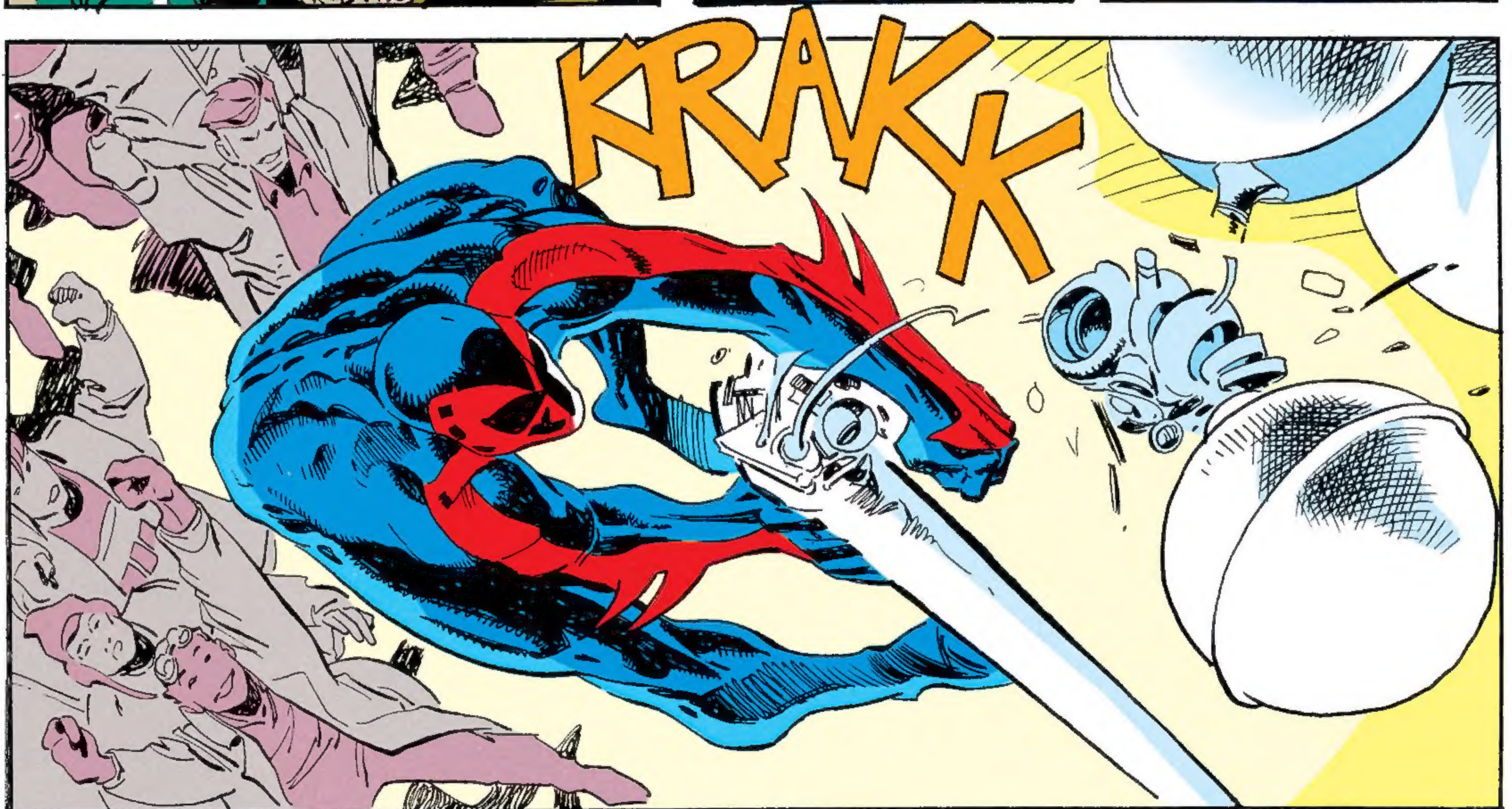
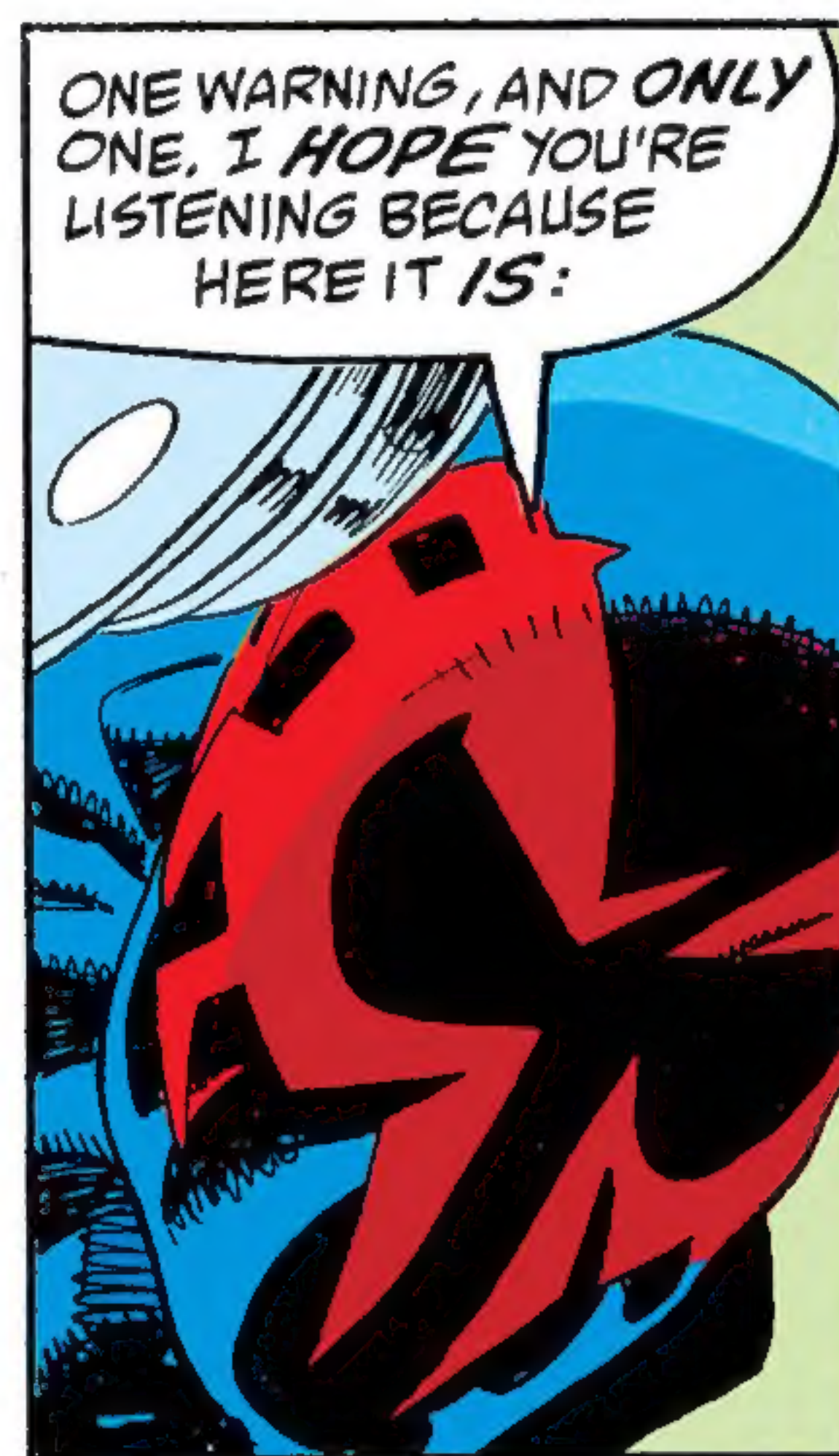
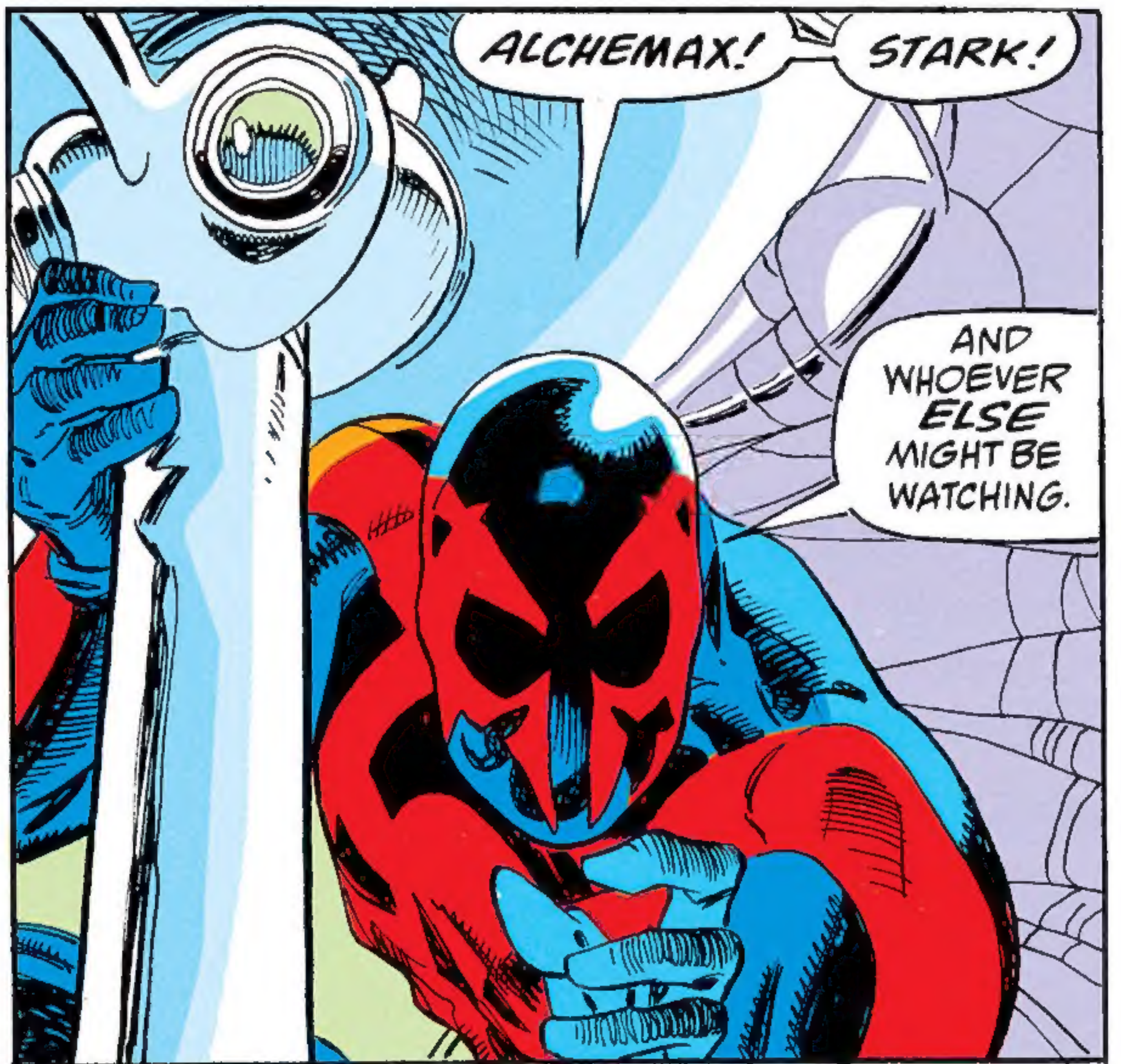
IF I'M SO BLASTED BRIGHT, WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT UNTIL I LOOKED THROUGH SPIDER-MAN'S EYES?

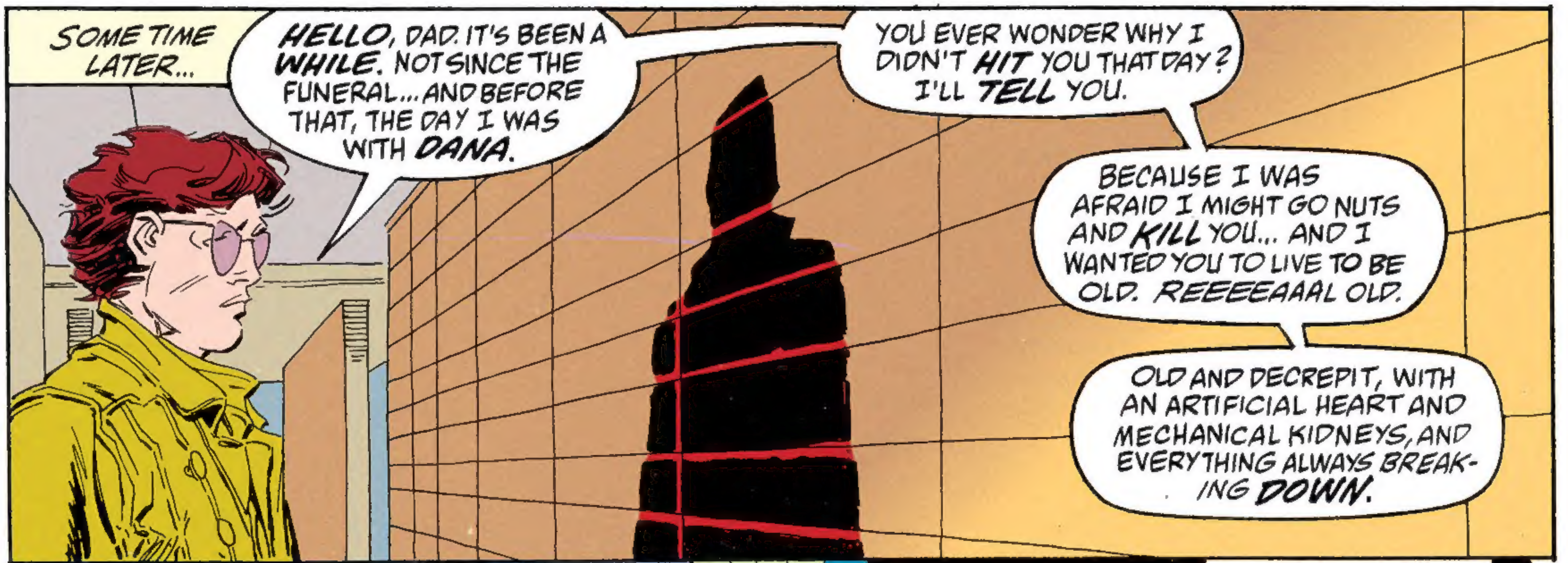
AND NOW THAT I HAVE... DO I FACE IT? OR TURN AWAY FROM IT?











SOME TIME LATER...

HELLO, DAD. IT'S BEEN A WHILE. NOT SINCE THE FUNERAL... AND BEFORE THAT, THE DAY I WAS WITH DANA.

YOU EVER WONDER WHY I DIDN'T HIT YOU THAT DAY? I'LL TELL YOU.

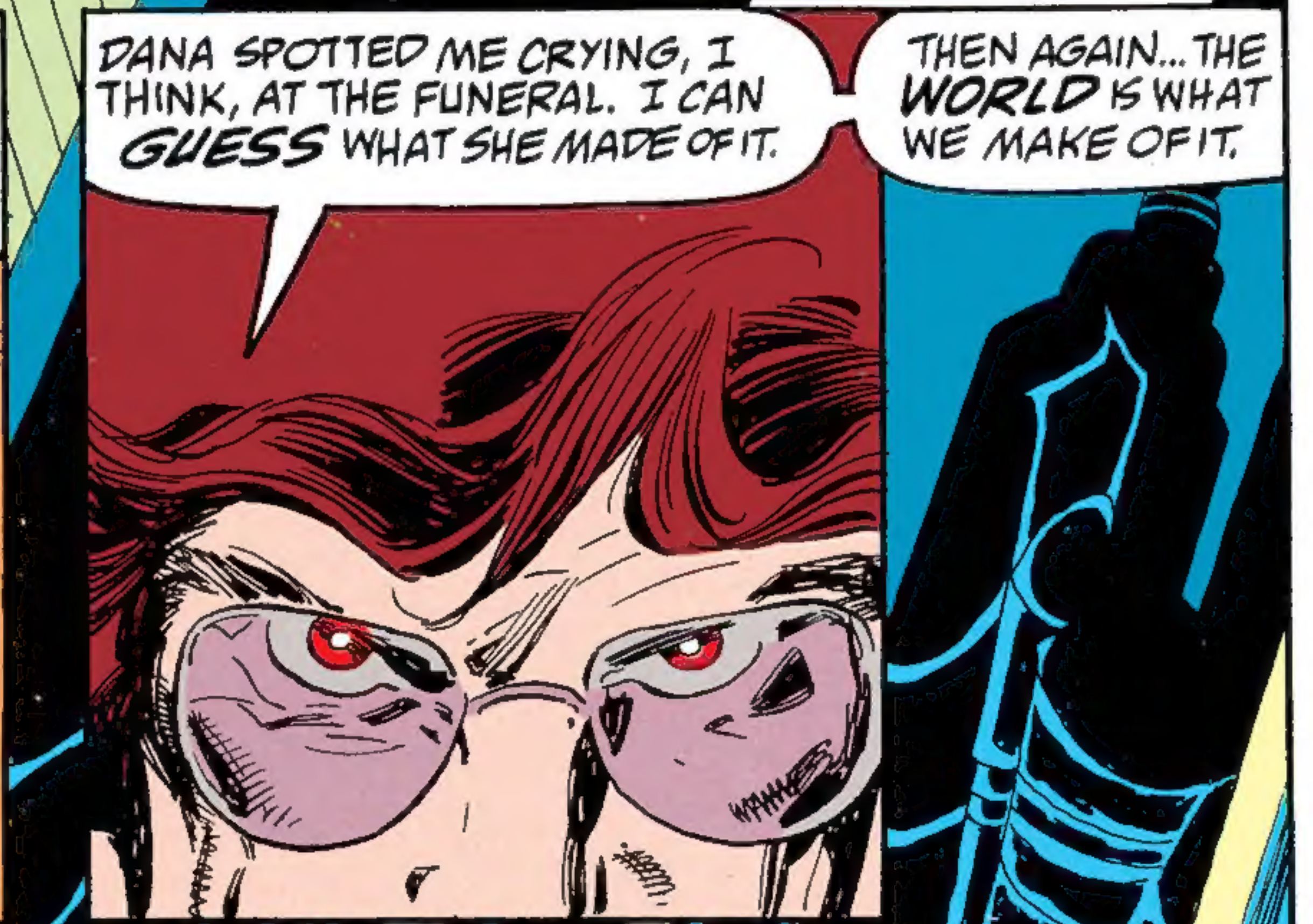
BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID I MIGHT GO NUTS AND KILL YOU... AND I WANTED YOU TO LIVE TO BE OLD. REEEEEAAAL OLD.

OLD AND DECREPIT, WITH AN ARTIFICIAL HEART AND MECHANICAL KIDNEYS, AND EVERYTHING ALWAYS BREAKING DOWN.



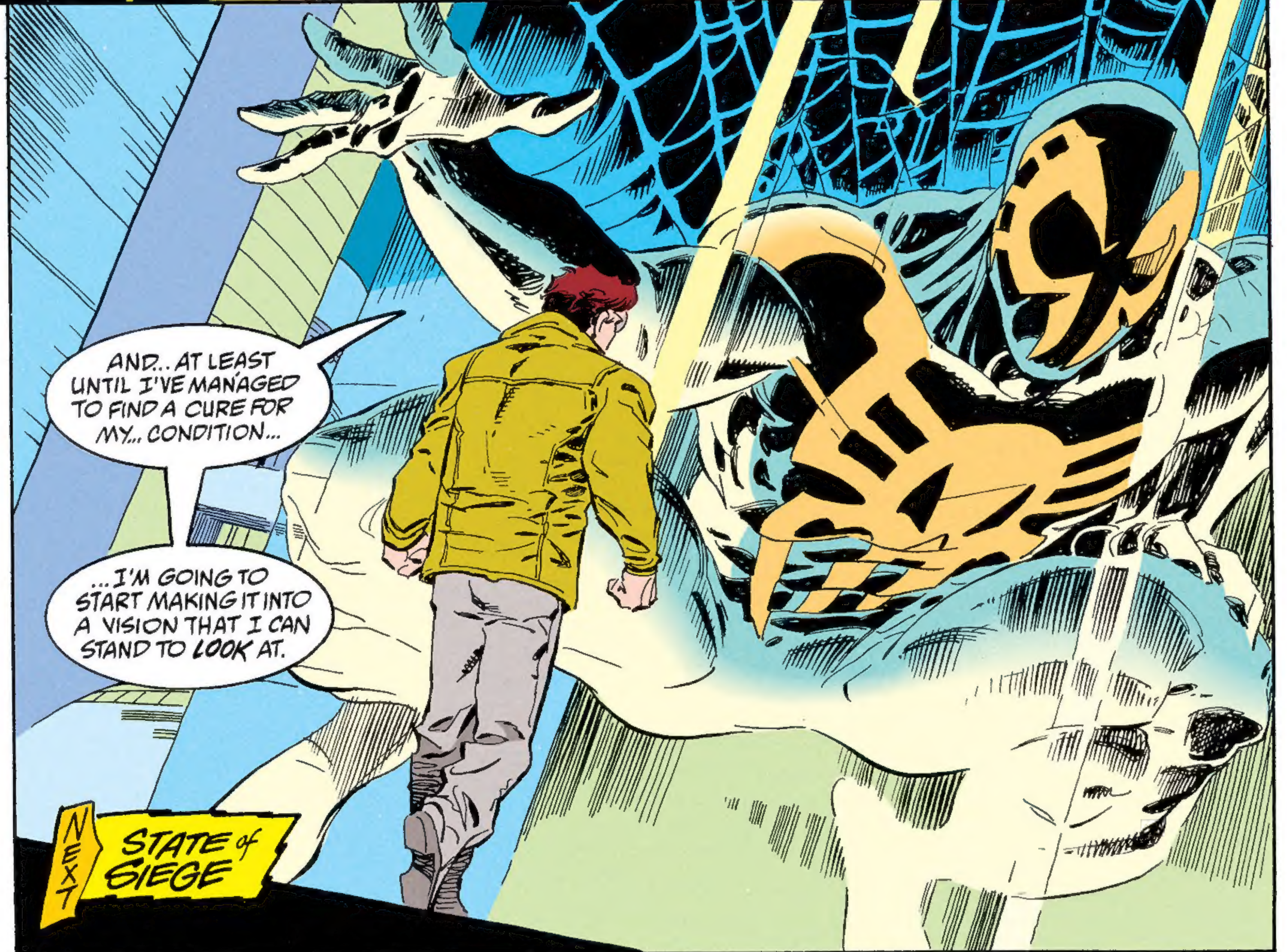
I WANTED YOU TO SUFFER EVERY POSSIBLE WEAKNESS OLD AGE COULD INFLICT.

AND INSTEAD YOU UPPED AND DIED AND WRECKED THE PLAN.



DANA SPOTTED ME CRYING, I THINK, AT THE FUNERAL. I CAN GUESS WHAT SHE MADE OF IT.

THEN AGAIN... THE WORLD IS WHAT WE MAKE OF IT.



AND... AT LEAST UNTIL I'VE MANAGED TO FIND A CURE FOR MY... CONDITION...

...I'M GOING TO START MAKING IT INTO A VISION THAT I CAN STAND TO LOOK AT.

NEXT
STATE of GIEGE



Z
O
N
S